

2,501 new jobs approved

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet held a meeting Tuesday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and approved the 1993 ministries and government departments' manning table system. The system included creating 2,501 new jobs at the Ministry of Education, 1,000 new vacancies at the Ministry of Health, 170 at the Customs Department, 154 at the Income Tax Department, 140 at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, 75 at the Administrative Inspection Bureau, 70 at the Ministry of Justice, and 705 at the rest of the ministries and government departments. By this, some 4,814 new jobs were created at the various government institutions. About 750 job vacancies were offered in public institutions not included in the manning table. The Cabinet also approved a recommendation by Finance Minister Basel Jaradneh to speed up the process of appointing applicants for these posts. The government ceased to hire new employees on Nov. 30, 1992 to enable the General Budget Department to issue the manning table and the 1994 general budget. The Council of Ministers also approved the sales tax draft law and decided to refer it to the parliament for approval in the current parliamentary session. This law will replace the consumption tax law.

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Budget enacted

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Tuesday approving law no. 1 for 1993, which is the 1993 general budget law. The law takes effect as of Jan. 1, 1993, according to the decree.

Yemeni parties seem to drop merger

SANAA (R) — Yemen's two ruling parties appear to have dropped plans to turn their coalition into a merger to ensure victory in general elections next April, the first since the North and South united in 1990. President Ali Abdullah Saleh's People's General Congress (PGC), in a statement Monday night after two days of merger talks with the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), called for broader-based "national concord... that would not breach the spirit of democracy." Opposition parties complain a merger of the parties that controlled the two Yemens until 1990 would be undemocratic and would entrench the power of the two political giants.

'Embezzler' returns \$21m to Kuwait

KUWAIT (AP) — An oil tanker executive jailed on charges of embezzling tens of millions of dollars from the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) has returned part of the money to the treasury, the oil minister said Tuesday. Oil Minister Ali Al Baghli said the accused had returned the 6.2 million Kuwaiti dinars (\$21.7 million) to the central bank over the past few days. The two executives accused in the scandal are believed to have raked in more than \$100 million by renting tankers in their own names at a low price, leasing them to the state-owned company at an inflated rate and pocketing the difference. One executive, Hassan Qabazard, has been jailed in Kuwait and denied bail. Another executive, Abdul Fatah Al Badr, apparently received a tip that his arrest was imminent and fled to London. The assets of both were frozen. The oil minister would not specify who returned the money but said: "There is only one here."

Iraq urges Turkey to discuss dam

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq appealed to Turkey again Tuesday to discuss a new hydroelectric project on the Euphrates River. A spokesman for the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation said construction of the Birecik Dam near the border with Syria would affect the flow of the river's flow into that country and into Iraq. The spokesman, Abdul Sattar Salman, was quoted by the Iraqi News Agency as saying that international law does not allow construction of projects that decrease water flow beyond mutually decided levels. Mr. Salman said Baghdad had asked Turkey and Syria for a joint meeting on the issue but had received no answer.

Algeria sets deadline for turning in guns

ALGIERS (R) — The Algerian authorities have given hunters in areas under night curfew until Feb. 10 to turn in their guns, apparently to keep them out of the hands of Muslim fundamentalists fighting the security forces. The Interior Ministry, which earlier asked Algerians in the seven regions under curfew to turn in weapons, said they must now surrender all "hunting guns" within the next two weeks. In a statement broadcast Tuesday, it said steps would be taken against those who did not obey. The guns would be returned sometime later, it added.

Alleged Soviet coup plotters to be tried

MOSCOW (AP) — The officials accused of trying to overthrow the Soviet government in 1991 will be tried before the Russian Supreme Court beginning April 14, a court official told Russian news agencies Tuesday. Prosecutors and defense lawyers have prepared for more than a year, but a date was not announced until Tuesday. Twelve men will face charges of high treason and conspiracy to seize state power. Anatoly Ukolov, chairman of the court's military tribunal, told the Interfax and ITAR-TASS news agencies.

Ghali calls for U.N. action against Israel

Rabin cries foul; U.S. envoy says Clinton 'unlikely' to back sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Secretary-General Boutros Ghali recommended Tuesday that the Security Council take "whatever measures are required" to force Israel to return nearly 400 expelled Palestinians. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin accused the United Nations of exercising a "double standard" against Israel. Israel's U.N. ambassador, Gad Yacobi, said Dr. Ghali's stance was "one-sided and totally ignores the background" behind the expulsion. Israel ordered the expulsion after six Israeli soldiers were killed by militants in a 10-day period. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) U.N. office said it was working on a resolution to impose international sanctions on Israel to force it to comply. The PLO said its resolution would impose economic sanctions on Israel and bar it from attending international conferences on human rights. The United States, however, indicated it would block such a resolution. Officials in Washington said Monday they had told Arab governments the United States wanted the dispute settled by the parties. In a report released at U.N. headquarters, Dr. Ghali said Israel's refusal to take back the deportees "challenges the authority of the Security Council." He recommended that the council "take whatever measures are required to ensure that its unanimous decision... is respected."

The 15-nation council voted unanimously Dec. 18 to adopt a resolution demanding that Israel return the Palestinians. Israel expelled 415 men on Dec. 17 as alleged members of the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements. The expulsion was in retaliation for a series of attacks, including the slayings of six security troops, that were blamed on Hamas. Fourteen men expelled in error have since returned and five others were hospitalized, leaving 396 stranded in a tent camp north of the Israeli "security zone" in southern Lebanon. Mr. Ghali also said he would start discussions with Israel about putting U.N. monitors in the Israeli-occupied territories to ensure Palestinians' rights were respected. Israel's foreign ministry rejected those recommendations; Palestinians applauded them. The ministry repeated an appeal to the Security Council to avoid further steps against Israel until Israel's supreme court ruled on the expulsion of the Palestinians. A decision might come later this week. But the PLO was already pressing for sanctions. Riyad Mansour, its deputy permanent observer at the United Nations, told reporters he would immediately begin drafting a sanctions resolution. Dr. Ghali's report, issued after two of his envoys failed to persuade Mr. Rabin to comply with U.N. demands, said the expulsions were "only the most recent in a series of violations by Israel" of international conventions on human rights. "The report is an example of double standard, completely ignoring terrorism and singling out only the steps taken against it," Mr. Rabin told reporters after briefing a parliamentary committee in occupied Jerusalem. Israel frequently has accused the United Nations of holding it to tougher human rights standards than Arab states. Israel's army radio quoted Mr. Rabin as telling the committee he hoped the United States would veto any attempt by the Security Council to impose sanctions. William Harrop, the U.S. ambassador in Tel Aviv, said on army radio he hoped the case could be resolved without a council vote. The foreign ministry said there was

"no room" for an international monitoring body in the occupied territories, saying Israel was in charge of everyone's security in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. But Haider Abdul Shafi, the chief Palestinian negotiator at the Middle East peace talks, welcomed the proposal. "We have been asking a long time for international protection," Dr. Abdul Shafi said. Mr. Rabin received reassurance earlier when Ambassador Harrop told army radio that President Bill Clinton did not want to use a veto but was "most unlikely" to allow U.N. sanctions against Israel. "It's been made very clear to me that the new administration wishes to continue a very close relationship with Israel," the U.S. ambassador said. At a closed meeting of the foreign affairs committee, Mr. Rabin defended the Dec. 17 expulsion of 415 Palestinians. It was condemned by the United States and other members of the Security Council as a violation of international law. "Until now no American administration has allowed sanctions against the state of Israel. I hope this will continue," Mr. Rabin was quoted as saying by an official who briefed reporters. Despite the U.S. support, Israeli officials were thrown onto the defensive by Dr. Ghali's report. Israel mounted a campaign to stave off sanctions, trying to justify its action and seeking a delay in the convening of the Security Council. Arab and other countries, noting the use of force in Iraq, have called for enforcing all U.N. resolutions. Mr. Yacobi told Israel Radio the Security Council could meet by Wednesday to consider its next step. But he said recommendations in Dr. Ghali's report on three futile U.N. missions to Israel over the evacuees were "open to fairly broad interpretation." Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said

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Abdul Shafi says U.S. will make Israel yield

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The chief Palestinian peace negotiator said Tuesday he was certain Washington would help make Israel take back hundreds of Arabs expelled to Lebanon. "I am certain the United States will take the position that will force Israel to comply. We cannot expect any big power to stand back from supporting what is right and what is legitimate," Haider Abdul Shafi told a news conference. "It will be shameful and ridiculous if America, in this case where Israeli intransigence is threatening the peace process, will take a different stand."

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali recommended Monday that the U.N. Security Council take "whatever measures are required" to force Israel to take back the expelled in compliance with Resolution 799. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has told two U.N. envoys, during three missions since the expulsions on Dec. 17, that he will not obey. Israel says the evacuees have links with Islamic groups that killed six soldiers. U.S. ambassador to Israel William Harrop told Israel army radio Tuesday that President Bill Clinton was "most unlikely" to allow United Nations sanctions against Israel. "I think it's best that the situation be resolved before that kind of a challenge is posed to the new administration," Mr. Harrop said.

Dr. Abdul Shafi has said he would stay away from the Middle East peace talks if Israel does not return the expelled. Until Israel expelled them, the U.S.-brokered talks had been expected to resume in February. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher discussed the possibility of visiting the Middle East next month in a telephone talk Sunday with Mr. Rabin, diplomatic sources said. The sources, who asked not to be identified, said no decision was made about the proposed trip, which could take place in the middle of next month.



Haider Abdul Shafi

It would be part of Mr. Christopher's first foreign trip as secretary of state and would also take him to Arab countries with the aim of resuming the stalled Arab-Israeli peace talks. The sources said Mr. Christopher would like the standoff surrounding the fate of the evacuees stranded on a mountainside in South Lebanon to be resolved before he goes to the region. Evictees urge sanctions. In Marj Al Zuhour, Lebanon, the Palestinian evacuees urged the U.N. Security Council to impose sanctions on Israel and asked Washington not to use its veto. The Palestinians said they were heartened by Dr. Ghali's recommendation. Abdul Aziz Al Rantisi, the leader of the evacuees, said: "This (Ghali's) report is positive although overdue." "We hope the Security Council will take a tough stand towards Israel and implement sanctions. I hope the United States will not sabotage the process by using its power of veto because it would lose its credibility."

Hawatmech reports 'proposal'

Palestinian leader Nayef Hawatmech said Tuesday the United States, Egypt and Israel were discussing a proposal to avert U.N. sanctions against Israel

Strike paralyses Sidon

SIDON (AP) — A general strike crippled Sidon Tuesday during a protest against a crackdown on a local militia that governed the city since the outbreak of the 1975-1990 civil war. Schools, shops, banks, businesses, cafes and cinemas were shuttered and traffic was down to a trickle in the provincial capital of South Lebanon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut. Fishermen boated their sails, leaving their boats idle in the harbor of the country's third-largest city. Only pharmacies and bakeries were exempt.

The strike was the first confronting Prime Minister Rafik Hariri's half-Christian, half-Muslim government, which was formed Oct. 31 to try to lift Lebanon from the ravages of the civil war. Sidon is Mr. Hariri's hometown. The work stoppage was called Monday by Mustafa Saad, leader of the leftist Nasserite organisation. Weapons of the group's 2,000-strong Popular Liberation Army were seized in army raids Sunday night.

The army command said troops confiscated dozens of military vehicles, wireless and telecommunication systems, various types of machine-guns and rocket launchers and ammunition. Mr. Saad protested the crackdown. He said his militia was part of the resistance against Israel's occupation of part of South Lebanon and thus excluded from a government drive to disarm private armies that fought in the civil war.

Mr. Saad is the elder son and political heir of Mazarouf Saad, the Sidon parliament deputy assassinated Feb. 26, 1975 as he led a fishermen's revolt against a government attempt to monopolize the fishing industry. Mr. Saad compared his Sunni Muslim organisation to the Iranian-backed Shiite Muslim Hizbollah, which is allowed to keep its arms because it is leading a guerrilla warfare against the Israeli-occupied enclave.



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday meets with Jordanian journalists (Petra photo)

General election will be held on schedule — King

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein said Tuesday that he saw no reason why the next parliamentary elections should not be held on time, and urged Jordanians to turn out in strength in the coming elections. "Now that democracy has been firmly established in the Kingdom, it has become incumbent on every Jordanian citizen to take active part in shouldering national responsibility," King Hussein was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as saying at a meeting with Jordanian journalists at the Royal Court.

Referring to political parties, the King said: "Our Jordanian society is capable of yielding new potentials and responsible citizens capable of taking the initiative." "Our basic and essential task," the King said, "is to safeguard our Jordanian national unity and uphold and maintain coherence on the domestic front that should be firmly protected in the face of any danger." "This is our task at a time when the world continues to witness regrettable manifestations of divisions, fragmentation and extremism that reveal the magnitude of catastrophes resulting from the state of desperation, frustration and ignorance," King Hussein said.

King Hussein expressed his fear that "the Middle East region would be exposed to further shocks resulting from the lack of justice and double standards — something that could trigger sectarian and ethnic conflicts which, should it happen, would have unimaginable consequences." King Hussein stressed that man's struggle to attain and protect his dignity and freedom and his right to free expression was a continuous process and this history always tends to move forward. "We have chosen the path of freedom, democracy and respect of human rights and sharing in the responsibility of drawing up the course in defence of right and freedom," the King said. "We are going ahead along the road of life and future with determination and resolve in order to enhance the opportunities for progress for our nation and our country at a time when the world witnesses an absence of unified and objective criteria to deal with various problems," he added.

King Hussein emphasised the need "for the establishment of justice and comprehensive and sustainable peace acceptable to the coming generations — peace that can be maintained and defended." Present at the meeting was Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki and Minister of Information Mahmoud Al Sharif.

Present at the meeting was Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki and Minister of Information Mahmoud Al Sharif.

Saddam will stay, Iraq tells world

Combined agency despatches President Saddam. U.S. Defence Secretary Les Aspin appeared to endorse the hard line of the Bush administration when he said Sunday he thought U.N. sanctions against Iraq would last as long as President Saddam stayed in power. Al Jumhuriyah reacted angrily. "Les Aspin's statement... is disgusting and ridiculous." "Once again the Pentagon's master confounds the Security Council resolutions with Washington's frustrated aims," it said. It said Mr. Bush had his "Skull smashed on the rock of Iraq's steadfastness" and asked: "Why does Aspin want to go down the same dark tunnel?" Mr. Aziz described Mr. Aspin's remarks as "belittling and arrogant." "This should not be the objective of the new administration. It is illegal, it is futile and it simply didn't work," Mr. Aziz said in the interview. Al Jumhuriyah said Iraqis should not expect too much from the Clinton administration.

"It seems that deception and lies are the standard of America's irreversible path. There is no difference between a democratic or republican ruler." "Is there a word or phrase in the Security Council resolutions stipulating a change of regime in Iraq?" Al Jumhuriyah asked Mr. Aspin. "This Aspin wants to convince the whole world that there is no difference between the United States and the United Nations." "The camp of evil and vice (the Gulf war coalition) is in a crisis and Aspin's statement is part of its sick symptoms." "There are no signs that President Saddam is losing his firm and direct grip on power despite Iraq's defeat in the Gulf war and more than two years of stringent U.N. sanctions imposed to punish Iraq for invading Kuwait in 1990. The newspaper Babel, published by President Saddam's son Uday, poured scorn on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak for suggesting President Saddam step down for the good

of his own people. "If the good of his people really mattered to him, he would have to give up power," Mr. Mubarak told the German news magazine Der Spiegel. "Did you ever hear a silly act of folly such as this?" Babel said. "He (Mubarak) has committed a monstrous crime." Asked how long Iraq could stand the U.N. embargo, Trade Minister Mohammad Mahdi Saleh told a news conference Monday: "The president said two years ago Iraq withstood sanctions for 20 years."

The trade and travel embargo of Iraq will continue, the U.N. Security Council announced, after a U.N. weapons expert pressed Baghdad for the names of other companies who supplied materials to build Iraq's nuclear weapons programme. The Security Council decision was made late Monday in New York, after the council conducted a periodic 60-day review of the sanctions imposed on Iraq.

But the troops are increasingly going beyond their original mission and critics say the U.S. risks getting bogged down in the country's civil war. Earlier this month, U.S. military spokesmen said they hoped to turn over control of their mercy mission to the United Nations by month's end. But U.N. officials are in no hurry. They want the U.S.-led allied force to make the famine-ravaged country safer first. Mr. Mawlawi denied a U.S. accusation the U.N. Security Council was dragging its feet on a resolution to hand over power.

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WHO appeals for funds to fight Sudanese parasite

GENEVA (Agencies) — The World Health Organisation (WHO) Tuesday said up to 400,000 people in southern Sudan are at risk from a killer parasite that has already claimed an estimated 40,000 lives. The health agency described the current outbreak of the sandy-borne infection as "one of the largest epidemics of the deadly disease in recorded history." The victims are in an area in southern Sudan virtually inaccessible to relief workers because of the civil war. U.N. officials reached one of the worst-hit places, Parayang, last week for the first time since fighting erupted in 1983 between government forces and rebels. If left untreated, all patients with clinical symptoms of the disease, called kala azar or leishmaniasis, die. "In normal times, this disease affects only a limited and stable population," a WHO statement said. "The devastation caused by war, famine and displacements have created the preconditions for an epidemic." WHO appealed for \$1 million to buy drugs, disposable syringes

and basic diagnosis equipment. The U.N. agency says it is too dangerous to have its own staff in the area but wants the money to support efforts of the charity Medicines sans Frontiers (Doctors Without Borders). The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Nairobi last Friday said the disease carried by sandflies had killed 60,000 in southern Sudan, cut off by civil war from outside medical help. "The main problem is to get the drugs we've got to the epidemic," Dr. Robert Walgate of WHO's tropical diseases programme told Reuters. "That is largely a financial problem, but it actually costs very little. Logistics are tough, too." Kala azar is spread by parasite-infected sandflies living in Acacia forests along flooded rivers. The disease destroys the body's immune system. "Between 300,000 and 400,000 persons in southern Sudan are currently at risk of infection by leishmaniasis, also known as kala azar. In what experts at the WHO consider to be one of the largest epidemics of the deadly disease in recorded history," the WHO said.

U.S. seen to deepen Somalia involvement

MOGADISHU (AP) — A U.S. Marine died Tuesday after being shot on night patrol, as the U.S. military appeared to be deepening its involvement in this lawless country by acting as a national police force. The soldier, hit in the capital's dangerous northern sector just before midnight Monday, was the second Marine and the third American killed in Somalia since American forces landed in the country Dec. 9. "Eight Somalis were killed Monday as U.S. helicopter gunships and Belgian troops blasted a clan militia with rocket and cannon fire near the southern port of Kismayu in an effort to stop its advance and enforce a ceasefire," said Farouk Mawlawi, a spokesman for the United Nations. They destroyed seven vehicles, several artillery pieces and wounded at least 40 Somalis, U.S. sources said. No allied casualties were reported. General Mohammad Farrah Aided, Somalia's dominant warlord, on Tuesday thanked the United States for the attack on forces loyal to ousted dictator Mohammad Siad Barre and led by a warlord known as Gen.

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Yeltsin criticises U.S. policy on Iraq, Yugoslavia

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin, under mounting pressure from hardliners, chided the United States Monday for trying to "dictate terms" to Iraq and Yugoslavia.

The statement followed a chorus of accusations in the Russian press and parliament that Mr. Yeltsin was abandoning longtime Soviet allies in Iraq and fellow Slavs in Serbia.

Although Moscow has backed United Nations resolutions against Iraq and Serbia, its support is eroding under pressure from hardliners and Russian nationalists. They have portrayed Mr. Yeltsin as a patsy of the United States.



Boris Yeltsin

Mr. Yeltsin said at a Kremlin news conference he had noted "a tendency on the side of the United States to dictate its terms" to both Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

"We have had a difference of opinion over Yugoslavia with the U.S.," he said.

Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaly Churkin said Monday that Russia would ask the United Nations to impose sanctions against Croatia unless it halted its offensive against Serbs.

The United States and other Western powers have held Serbia primarily responsible for the continued warfare in Yugoslavia.

But a Russian Foreign Ministry statement called the Croatian offensive "a very ill-conceived step" and part of "a chain of violations" of U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Mr. Yeltsin's gentle criticism of U.S. policy towards Iraq appeared aimed at former President George Bush rather than the newly inaugurated Bill Clinton.

"We think that there needs to be political dialogue with Iraq and its government," Mr. Yeltsin said. "It seems to me Clinton is more inclined to carry out just that sort of policy."

To balance his alleged tilt towards the West, Mr. Yeltsin visited China in December and will fly to India Wednesday.

Mr. Yeltsin said the former Soviet Union had viewed India as a "card" to be played against its great rivals, America and China.

Today, he said, "we want healthy, mutually beneficial relations that do not detrimentally affect any third country. We do not

want an axis, triangles or blocs. We do not wish for an alliance with India to the detriment of other countries.

"I would call this policy the specialty of the new Russia."

Separately, Yeltsin's foreign minister indicated Russia was not making any major shift in its foreign policy. Andrei Kozyrev told reporters earlier in the day that the "aggressive nationalism" seen in Yugoslavia was as dangerous as the cold war.

On Sunday, an extreme Russian Nationalist Party sent 10 volunteers, wearing blue uniforms and shiny black holsters, to fight alongside Iraqi forces in Iraq. Mr. Kozyrev denounced the private expedition as a "foolhardy escapade."

Still, support for Iraq appears to be growing in Russia.

"Ten years ago, the Soviet Union would have stopped this war very quickly — it would have sold good anti-aircraft missiles and fighters to Iraq. That would have been the Soviet contribution to the common cause of peace," the headline newspaper Literaturnaya Rossiya said in a pro-Iraq commentary Saturday.

Last week, Russia issued a diplomatic note demanding that the United States and other allied powers seek explicit approval from the U.N. Security Council before launching further attacks against Iraq.

Russia's Foreign Ministry said in the note that Iraq was to blame for failing to comply with U.N. resolutions, but stressed that allied reaction to Iraqi actions "must be appropriate" and

"proceed only from (U.N.) decisions."

Unase grows in Turkey

Opposition in Ankara to raids against Iraq by the U.S.-led coalition force based in Turkey is growing, with the government facing a censure motion and a survey Monday demonstrating strong dissent.

An opinion poll conducted by the Ankara-based Turkish Daily News, an English-language paper, said 81 per cent of respondents did not approve the use of Inçirlik Air Base for raids in northern Iraq.

The poll of 4,000 people in the country's five biggest cities also showed that 68.8 per cent generally opposed the strikes. However, 61 per cent said they did not consider Iraq friendly to Turkey.

The government next week will be forced to defend its permission to use Inçirlik during a censure motion debate in parliament. Opposition parties put the motion forward last week. It is not expected to pass.

The southern air base has harboured a Western air force protecting the Iraqi Kurds since the end of the Gulf war. The opposition parties charge the coalition's mission is limited to defending the Iraqi Kurds.

Coalition warplanes have got involved in skirmishes with Iraqi planes and anti-aircraft defence in northern Iraq during the latest tension between the United States and Iraq.

The Turkish government said the coalition planes were firing on Iraqi warplanes and anti-aircraft defence in northern Iraq "in self-defence."

The triumphant atmosphere when Turkey joined the Gulf war coalition two years ago no longer holds.

Turkey criticised the West for having a double-standard by remaining aloof to the plight of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Opposition to the coalition force also stems from a feeling that the presence of the foreign troops encourages the Iraqi Kurds to consolidate their self-rule. Turkish politicians fear that a de facto or truly independent Kurdish state in northern Iraq will fuel separatism among its own restive Turkish Kurds.

Rafsanjani: Iran needs strong military

NICOSIA (R) — Iran should keep a strong military to deter its enemies, President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said Monday.

Some Arab and Western countries have voiced concern about Iran's recent arms purchases, including a submarine from Russia which arrived in the Gulf in November.

But Tehran rejects charges of militarism, saying it spends much less on weapons than its Arab neighbours.

Mr. Rafsanjani, in a speech at the headquarters of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, said Iran should equip itself with "modern military hardware."

"Our enemies will let us alone only when they realise that we remain powerful and would stand up to them as a serious and superior force," Tehran Radio quoted him as saying.

"No revolution has had as many enemies as ours because we are defenders of justice and equality on the international scene, and they see us as a big obstacle for their illegitimate interests," he said.

Iran has allocated \$850 million to spend on its armed forces — the Guards Corps and the regular army — in the proposed budget for the year starting March 21 which is currently being debated in the Majlis (parliament).

Iran, Turkey discuss security

Turkish and Iranian interior ministers started talks in Ankara Monday, aiming to cooperate in preventing terrorism and drugs smuggling, officials said.

Iranian Interior Minister Abdollah Nouri, who arrived in Ankara Monday for a four-day visit, had talks with his Turkish counterpart Ismet Sezgin, they said.

"Important steps have been taken during Mr. Sezgin's visit (in September) to Tehran in terms of cooperation," Mr. Nouri told reporters before meeting Mr. Sezgin.

"We can cooperate in...the prevention of drugs smuggling, intelligence matters."

Mr. Nouri said Turkey and Iran could work together to give "the necessary message to common enemies."

Islamic Jihad chief vows attacks on Israel

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuter

AMMAN — The head of a militant Islamic group who claims around 40 of his men are among Palestinian evictees stranded in South Lebanon said Tuesday the group would escalate armed attacks on the Jewish state.

Sheikh As'ad Bayoud Al Tamimi, the spiritual leader of the Islamic Jihad-Beit Al Maqdis group founded in 1980, told Reuters the expulsions on Dec. 17 had helped boost radical Muslim groups who are against Arab-Israeli peace talks.

"Our response to the (expulsions) is to promote Jihad (Islamic holy war) and to continue to develop our means of armed struggle (against Israel)," the elderly Muslim cleric, fingering his long white beard, said in an interview at his home in Amman.

Israel banished the 415 Palestinians to South Lebanon on the grounds that they supported the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and the Islamic Jihad.

It blamed the two groups for a surge in anti-Israeli violence in the occupied territories, including the killing of six Israeli soldiers last month.

Sheikh Tamimi, himself an expellee from the West Bank town of Hebron, said a further growth in the popularity of Islamic political radicalism hinged on how actively they fought Israel.

He said their headline stand was eclipsing the moderate secular Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), who fully backed the 15-month-old Middle East peace process.

"The more you attack Jews the more you gain in popular support," said Sheikh Tamimi, whose group has claimed responsibility for stabbing many Israelis and for a bus attack in Egypt which killed nine Israelis in 1990.

"Secular political activity has failed — the moment has come for the wave of Islam which must inevitably sweep the PLO and the

Palestinian street," he added.

"The PLO tries to halt this trend but in the end it will have to follow the path or be swept aside. In the end the Islamic trend will prevail and Israel will wither."

Sheikh Tamimi's faction added the Beit Al Maqdis tag to distinguish itself from pro-Iranian Jihad groups who held Western hostages in Lebanon and from other splinter groups like Fathi Shukaki's Tehran-backed Jihad faction, which is based in Syria.

Sheikh Tamimi lashed out at the United Nations for failing to make Israel comply with U.N. Security Council Resolution 799, which demanded it take back the evictees.

"Nothing will come of the efforts to get back the (expellees)...there is no United Nations, only America..."

Israel has refused to comply with the resolution but allowed a British military helicopter to fly out 17 expellees Saturday. Two were allowed to leave on Jan. 9.

"The longer the (expellees) stay in worsening conditions the more God's wrath will increase on the Jews, and America," Sheikh Tamimi said.

Sheikh Tamimi said the main lesson Palestinian groups active in anti-Israeli resistance should learn from the expulsions is to keep a low profile and to work clandestinely like his group.

"We do not participate in any local elections inside Palestine...a main lesson drawn from the (expulsions) is the need for total secrecy," added the 68-year-old sheikh, who is a member of the Palestine National Council.

The PLO has withdrawn Palestinian delegates from the peace talks until a solution for the expellees is found — a key demand of all hardline Palestinian groups including Sheikh Tamimi's.

"The (expulsion) influenced the peace process itself. The optimists' positions inside the Palestinian leadership have weakened," he said.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Rabin gets phone threats; police alert

TEL AVIV (AP) — Police have stepped up patrols near Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's house following two telephone threats to assassinate him, a police spokesman said Tuesday. The threats were telephoned to the guard post outside Mr. Rabin's house in West Jerusalem's Rehavia quarter Monday, police said. Police said there were two callers and that it was "not clear" whether they were Jews or Arabs. The Maariv daily said the calls came at 1 and 2 p.m. Monday. The first time the caller said, "we will bomb and destroy Rabin," it added. Mr. Rabin, 70, a former general, was elected prime minister in June as head of the left-leaning Labour Party. He also served as prime minister in the mid-1970s.

Iranian MP, Egyptian diplomat discuss ties

NICOSIA (R) — A senior member of Iran's parliament met Egypt's top diplomat in Tehran Monday and said he hoped ties between the two countries would improve, Iran's IRNA news agency reported. Mahmoud Mohammad Farag, head of Egypt's interests section in Tehran, told Saeed Rajaei Khorassani that Cairo was ready to expand trade, tourism and other ties with Iran, IRNA said. Mr. Khorassani, a member of the Majlis (parliament) Foreign Affairs Commission, criticised Cairo's peace with Israel and its stance over the Palestinian issue but hoped Iran-Egypt relations, cut since 1979, would improve, the agency said. Mr. Khorassani was the first senior Iranian official to call for resumption of ties with Egypt last year, drawing attacks from hardline newspapers. Iranian officials and media have stepped up verbal attacks on Cairo in response to Egyptian charges that Tehran foments Muslim militant unrest in Arab countries.

Dropping Turkish TV station sparks row

BONN (R) — German cable television officials have sparked a row by dropping a Turkish-language station in favour of one in German. TRT public television, which was broadcast by satellite to Germany from Turkey, Monday accused southwestern Rhineland-Palatinate state of discriminating against Germany's Turkish population by dropping its service. "We consider this method of proceeding to be discriminatory, out of proportion and unfortunate at a time of escalating hatred of foreigners," Zafar Igar, TRT's European agent, told Reuters by telephone. "Officially, the Germans say they are for tolerance. But under their breath they seem to be saying, 'let's take advantage of the Turks, they cannot defend themselves,'" he said. Peter Behrend, spokesman for the state media regulators who oversee the cable network, said a boom in new television stations had forced them to drop TRT — the Turkish service was one of over 40 stations vying for 27 slots in the cable network. He cited a state law that gives German-language programmes priority over foreign ones.

Mayor asked to resign over anti-semitic letter

MAINZ, Germany (AP) — A small-town mayor in western Germany, who wrote to the nation's top Jewish leader to say he was glad he had no Jews in his community, has been asked to resign. Franz-Dieter Schlagkamp, mayor of Senheim in the western state of Rhineland-Palatinate, recently wrote a letter to Ignatz Bubis, leader of the Jewish community in Germany. In the letter, Mr. Schlagkamp said he was glad he did not have any Jews "to disturb the peace" in his community. The mayor has since apologised to Mr. Bubis, in another letter. But Walter Zuber, interior minister of Rhineland-Palatinate, said the apology was not enough, and urged the mayor to resign. "With one apology this letter cannot disappear from the world," Mr. Zuber said. "A mayor who is happy that no Jews live in his community cannot hold a public office," said Michael Henke, a state lawmaker from the leftist Greens Party. Mr. Schlagkamp is also the subject of an internal probe by the district administration. Jewish leaders have expressed concern over growing anti-Semitism in Germany, which has been coupled with a wave of anti-foreigner violence. Jewish cemeteries and monuments have been vandalised in the past few months.

Egypt and Algeria hold military talks

ALGIERS (R) — Egyptian General Mohammad Al Maghraoui, heading a military delegation to Algeria, has held military cooperation talks with Defence Minister Khaled Nezzar and senior armed forces officers, the defence ministry said. The general, armaments director for the Egyptian forces, met Gen. Nezzar, Algerian Army Chief of Staff Abdul Malek Guenaziza, and other officers Monday, said a ministry statement quoted by Algerian radio Tuesday. Gen. Nezzar is also a member of Algeria's five-man presidency. Cairo and Algiers are both battling Muslim fundamentalism blamed for attacks on tourists in Egypt and on Algerian security forces.

Tunisian founding figure dies

TUNIS (AP) — Former Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Nouri died Monday following a long illness, the official television announced. He was 82. Mr. Nouri, who retired from politics in February 1980 following a debilitating heart attack, had headed the government for a decade beginning in 1970, as the country's second prime minister. He had earlier served as finance minister in the government of Prime Minister Bahi Ladgham after Tunisia's independence from France in 1956 and was the first governor of the Central Bank of Tunisia. Born in April 1911, in Monastir, the hometown of former President Habib Bourguiba, Mr. Nouri was trained as a lawyer. He launched his political career with Mr. Bourguiba, helping found the Neo-Destour Party in 1934, which campaigned for Tunisian independence. Mr. Nouri was its Paris Representative. Mr. Bourguiba, who reigned for three decades like a monarch, was ousted in a bloodless coup Nov. 7, 1987 by then interior minister, President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali. There was no information available on Mr. Nouri's survivors or funeral plans.

Juba still hungry but conditions improving

By Mohammad Osman
The Associated Press

JUBA — The children are still hungry. Their swollen bellies, protruding out of their otherwise emaciated bodies, and their dazed eyes are testimony of how Sudan's 10-year-old civil war continues to ravage this besieged southern capital.

Of Juba's 400,000 inhabitants, more than 80 per cent depend on relief food. A five-month lull from rebel shelling has opened the way for relief planes to fly in, but high transportation costs mean that the town still only gets one third of its food needs.

"Juba needs between 30,000 to 40,000 tonnes of relief annually, and it is only getting 10,000 tonnes," said Jackson Tokwiny, acting head of the government's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission. He told a group of reporters on a two-day trip to Juba organised by the Information Ministry that the food situation is "dire."

Juba is 120 km south of Sudan's capital of Khartoum. It has been besieged by the rebel Sudan

People's Liberation Army (SPLA) since the mid-1980s. The rebels took up arms against the government in 1983, demanding more autonomy and administrative and economic reforms for the south.

Hundreds of thousands of civilians have died from the fighting and famine in southern Sudan because both the government and the rebels use food as a weapon. But Sudanese have received much less aid and international attention than neighbouring Somalia and Ethiopia which have been afflicted by similar situations.

One tonne of relief food costs \$550 to fly in from Entebbe in Uganda, \$660 from Khartoum and \$750 from Nairobi, Kenya, said William Mogga, director of Cart, a consortium of 10 international relief organisations. Southern Sudan's main food donor is the United Nations World Food Programme, which in turn is financed by Western donations.

Sudan's military leader, Omar Hassan Al Bashir, has said that the food for the needy people in southern

Sudan is available but has urged Western donors to provide means for its air transportation.

Mr. Mogga said that the shortage of funds to fly in the relief food had forced Cart to cut down rations from 400 grammes daily per person to 200 grammes. He said there were only enough food supplies to last for two to five weeks.

The half-ration distributions are usually carried out twice a month, but the shortage of supplies sometimes forces Cart to have a "silent week." That means distributions are skipped because there is not enough to go around, and giving only a few could cause riots.

"This difficult situation has affected mostly the vulnerable groups, children under five, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers," says Joseph Abwoch Dominic of the French relief organisation International Action Against Famine.

There are 104 feeding centres for children in Juba, helping 32,000 children. Official figures show that 23,000 of them are malnourished.

At one of the centres run

by International Action Against Famine, dozens of malnourished children with swollen bellies, orange-tinted hair and moist eyes waited patiently for their daily meal of milk and Unimix, a high protein and calorie porridge.

Despite the food shortages, the situation in Juba is much improved from the summer months of June and July when concentrated rebel shelling of the town killed scores of civilians and stopped relief flights for weeks.

Gen. Barabara, acting governor of the southern Equatoria region, said that the army had forced away the rebels and secured Juba and the surrounding countryside. He said fighting among the rebels had also weakened the siege around Juba.

This relative security has enabled some of the people to venture out of the town to collect wood and even cultivate small pieces of land. After huddling in the city centre to escape the shelling, they have returned to the town's peripheries and with the help of the government are rebuilding their tukuls, or small African huts.

Head of Iraqi parliament energy panel visits Cuba

HAVANA, Cuba (R) — The head of the Iraqi parliament's commission of oil, energy and minerals is visiting Cuba as part of a Latin American tour including trips to Mexico and Venezuela, the Iraqi embassy said Monday.

A spokeswoman for the Havana embassy told Reuters that Abdul Ibrahim Al Hadhithy was leading a delegation that included a senior Iraqi Foreign Ministry official and a member of the parliament's Commission for International Relations.

Cuba maintains what Cuban officials call "friendly" relations with Iraq and the government has condemned the most recent U.S. attacks against the Gulf country.

The visiting Iraqi delegation had been received by vice-president of Cuba's National Assembly Zola Benitez. But the embassy spokeswoman declined to say what other meetings the Iraqis would have.

She said the delegation had visited a bio-technological centre but could give no details of the rest of the programme. The Cuban workers' weekly Trabajadores said the Iraqis would visit economic, scientific and cultural centres.

Cuba is suffering severe energy shortages because of the collapse of oil imports previously received through a preferential agreement with the former Soviet Union.

Cuban officials, citing the United Nations-imposed embargo against Iraq, have said there is currently no trade between Cuba and the Gulf states.

Iran sentences German to death for 'spying'

TEHRAN (R) — Iran has sentenced a German man to death for spying for Iraq, Prosecutor-General Abolfazl Mousavi Tabrizi was quoted as saying on Tuesday.

"This person, who was arrested in 1991, has been tried and sentenced to death," Kayhan newspaper quoted Mr. Mousavi Tabrizi as saying. He said the man was named Helmut but gave no other details.

German diplomats were not immediately available for comment.

Mr. Mousavi Tabrizi said Dieter Pfersch, another German held since August in a separate case for fraud and foreign exchange violations, would be tried soon.

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:25	Rome (AZ)
06:35	Damascus (PS)
06:45	Bahrain (ME)
06:55	Cairo (MS)
11:30	Sana'a (TY)
12:00	Jeddah (SU)
12:00	Karachi (PI)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg	
Apple	700/300
Banana	700/700
Beans (Mukawana)	640/490
Beans	650/490
Cabbage	160/190
Carrot	250/180
Cauliflower	150/165
Cucumbers (small)	300/220
Eggplant	320/220
Garlic	650/120
Grapes	180/120
Lemon	270/220
Marrow (large)	200/180
Marrow (small)	440/380
Mel	210/180
Onion (dry)	210/180
Onion (green)	240/180
Orange	400/160
Potato (new)	380/280
Pepper (green)	620/220
Potato	180/120
Tomato	130/60
Spinach	240/180

JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO	TIME
18:00	52 Sur La Une
19:00	News in French
19:15	News in Arabic
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Saved by the Bell
21:00	Spotlight
21:30	James Randi
22:00	News in English
22:30	Bodyline

PRAYER TIMES

05:08	Fajr
14:28	(Sunrise) Duha
14:48	Dhuhr
16:43	Asr
17:08	Maghrib
18:28	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swiffield, Tel. 810740	Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590	Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 641757	Terrace Church Tel. 622344
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 635433	Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775361	St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assam International Church Tel. 683326	Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623624, 654932	Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A warm and wet front will affect Jordan Wednesday. Therefore, clouds will increase gradually and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain. Winds will be westerly/moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly/moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.	Wind
Amman	2/15
Aqaba	8/20
Decr	2/16
Jordan Valley	7/19

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 16, Aqaba 20. Humidity readings: Amman 22 per cent, Aqaba 45 per cent.

AMMAN:

Dr. Mohammed Mansour	741444
Dr. Makhles Hales	819220
Dr. Mohammad Shagair	632693
Dr. Ahmad Al Ashbah	803989
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdous pharmacy	773336
Al Asama pharmacy	637055
Naroukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	630730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shitani pharmacy	637660
Mahmoud pharmacy	623672
Hajji pharmacy	147632

DEBID:

Dr. Akram Al Momani	(-)
AI Ouds pharmacy	(-)

ZARQA:

Dr. Yousef Awad	994767
Khalid pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 837777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	603800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Rescue Calls	601030
Central Amman Telephone	601030
Repairs	623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	771111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100

HOSPITALS

Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	636381
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53200

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)33200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	Time
05:00	Aden (RJ)
05:45	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
05:50	Jeddah (RJ)
05:50	Sana'a (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	Time
05:00	Rome (RJ)
05:15	Berlin, London (RJ)
11:00	Tokyo, Osaka (RJ)
11:10	Amman (RJ)
11:30	Amman (RJ)
19:30	Cairo (RJ)
19:45	Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
20:00	Riyadh (RJ)
20:15	New Delhi (RJ)
20:45	Damascus (RJ)
21:30	Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
22:45	Sana'a (RJ)

Local firms to build banking institute

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Tuesday granted two local companies contracts to establish the new premises of the Jordan Institute for Banking Studies (JIBS) in the district of Tala Al Ali in western Amman at a cost JD 1,432,948.

The institute, which is currently housed in a building adjacent to the CBJ in downtown Amman, will be erected on an eight dunam plot and will occupy 4,000 square metres of space, according to the provisions of the contract signed by CBJ Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi.

Institute Director, Adib Haddad said the Haddadin Engineering and Contracting Company will construct the new building and a local engineering company will supervise the implementation of the project.

Students at the institute most complete a two-year course to obtain a diploma in finance and banking studies, which makes them eligible for employment in Jordanian banks, he said.

Dr. Haddad said the institute, which initially began by offering afternoon courses, now offers morning courses as well to cope with the growing number of students.

The institute's diploma is accredited by the Ministry of Higher Education.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King endorses Talhouni ambassadorship

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Tuesday endorsing the Cabinet appointment of Adnan Talhouni as Jordan's ambassador to Mauritania. Mr. Talhouni also serves as Jordan's ambassador to Morocco.

Jordan attends high-tech meeting in Italy

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers announced Tuesday that Jordan will take part in a meeting to be held in the Italian city of Bari on Jan. 28, dealing with industry and modern technology transfer. Director General of the Jordanian Investments Corporation (JIC) will attend the meeting, which is organised by the European Community.

Husseini to address European Parliament

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the steering committee for the Palestinian Delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations Faisal Husseini left Amman for Brussels Tuesday to address the European Parliament. He said he would urge the European nations to exert serious efforts towards forcing Israel to return the 396 Palestinians expelled to southern Lebanon a month ago. Mr. Husseini arrived in Amman from the West Bank Monday evening.

German envoy visits University of Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — German ambassador to Jordan Heinrich Reiners visited the University of Jordan Tuesday and met President Fawzi Gharaibeh. Discussions covered cooperation between German institutes and the University of Jordan.

Environmentalists plan awareness seminar

NORTH SHUNEH — Jordan Valley (Petra) — The Jordanian Society for the Prevention of Environmental Pollution plans to organise a two-day programme here early next month to help spread awareness among the public on the need for protecting the environment. The society said seminars, films and other activities and exhibitions will be held in the course of the event.

Austrian plane makes emergency landing

AMMAN (Petra) — An Austrian airliner made an emergency landing at the Queen Alia International Airport Tuesday while on a scheduled flight to Syria. An airport statement said the Austrian plane could not land in Damascus because of dense fog in the early hours of the day.

Tourism delegation exhibits Jordan in Spain

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the Ministry of Tourism and Jordan's tourism sector left for Madrid Tuesday to take part in an international tourism exposition. The Jordanian pavilion at the nine-day event will portray Jordan's culture and history via displays of its tourist attractions, handicrafts, national costumes, posters and other items. The ministry said one of the objectives of participating is to attract tourism to the Kingdom.

New book on Muslims in former USSR

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) has published a book in English about Muslims in the former Soviet Union. The book by Fakhreddin Daghestani and Mohammad Amireh, reviews the history of the Islamic Republics in the former Soviet Union, their languages, population distribution and scientific progress.

120,000 olive trees planted in Zarqa

ZARQA (Petra) — The Zarqa Governorate Tuesday observed Arbor Day and held a tree-planting celebration during which 120,000 olive saplings were planted. The agriculture department in the region distributed another 120,000 forest tree saplings free of charge to individuals and organisations to be planted in the governorate.

New Jordanian PhD studies kindergartens

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian researcher Khaled Al Sharairi has obtained his doctorate degree from the University of Ein Shams in Cairo. His thesis on kindergartens in Jordan covers various kindergartens in Irbid, Zarqa and Salt and presents the views of 299 people involved in the kindergarten field. Dr. Sharairi found that education at the kindergarten level was not receiving the required level of attention in Jordan.

Road accidents kill 4

AMMAN (Petra) — Four citizens died and 205 others were injured in 364 road accidents between Jan. 9 and 16, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Traffic Department Tuesday. The bulletin said that drivers aged between 20 and 30 years were responsible for 43 per cent of the accidents and that most of the accidents — 309 — occurred in the Amman Governorate.

Bani Kenana farmers to receive loans

AMMAN (Petra) — The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) will offer loans to Bani Kenana district farmers whose olive trees were damaged by last winter's weather, ACC Deputy Director Abdul Salam Arabiyat said Monday. He said the corporation has finalised the list of farmers who should visit the ACC director in Irbid to complete the necessary procedures for obtaining the loans.

Governor promises services to Ghor Al Safi

KARAK (Petra) — Karak Governor Radhi Ibrahim met Monday with citizens in the southern Jordan Valley at Ghor Al Safi Social Development Society. Mr. Ibrahim told the citizens that the government plans to provide them with all the basic services in accordance with the available resources. The governor stressed the need for local, rural and municipal councils to cooperate to improve services offered to citizens in their areas. Mr. Ibrahim was briefed by citizens on their demands and needs, particularly in agricultural fields.

Jordan relies less on guest nurses

AMMAN (J.T.) — With the increasing number of professional nurses and midwives graduating from the Ministry of Health's nursing colleges, Jordan has had to rely considerably less on expatriate nursing staff, said Dr. Salim Smadi, director of the ministry's training colleges.

In the 1980s there were several hundred expatriate nurses employed in Jordan; today there are only 67, he said.

The ministry's nursing colleges — the first established in 1952 — face the growing challenge of graduating more nurses because of the country's increasing number of hospitals and health care centres.

For the academic year 1992-93, the ministry's colleges received 1,500 applications from high-school graduates.

Admission requirements call for a minimum 65 per cent average in the Tawjihi scientific stream, Dr. Smadi said.

Upon acceptance, the student is provided with accommodation, health insurance, transportation



Queen Noor bestows diploma on graduate of the Jordanian Institute of Specialized Nursing Studies

and training, he said.

After completion of four years, students graduate as registered nurses, with a diploma equivalent to the BA degree. Those in midwifery studies graduate in three years.

Graduates of both curricula are quickly absorbed by the private and public sector hospitals and health centres.

To date, the ministry has graduated 1,481 male and female nurses and 562 midwives.

Conference to study maritime crime

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Combating international trading fraud and piracy on the high seas, are the major topics of a general conference scheduled for Feb. 10, in Amman, the Shipping Agents Association (SAA) announced.

SAA President Tawfiq Kassar told the Jordan Times that with the rise in maritime crime in various parts of the world such a meeting is expedient in order to explore methods of combating these incidents.

Mr. Kassar said acts of piracy began off the coast of Algeria, sprouted up in the Straits of Malacca in Indonesia, and now

have reached the Red Sea.

A statement by the Regional Piracy Centre (RPC) in Kuala Lumpur, said that out of 91 reported piracy cases in 1992, 73 occurred in Asian waters.

As recently as December Reuters reported that a Thai cargo ship was attacked by pirates who killed the ship's engineer and wounded its captain and two crew members.

The MV Soya had left Aqaba with a cargo of phosphate bound for Sri Lanka and was attacked in international waters off the Yemeni coast, Reuters reported.

The pirates first directed small armsfire towards the bridge, then opened fire with rocket propelled grenades, killing the engineer,

Reuters wrote.

Mr. Kassar told the Jordan Times that the pirates escaped with only personal belongings and cash from the ship's crew.

The meeting is being organised by the SAA in cooperation with a national committee affiliated with the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the International Maritime Bureau (IMB), Mr. Kassar said.

Participants will include international and regional experts in maritime transport and trade.

Organisers of the meeting added that Jordanian importers, exporters, commercial banks and insurance companies have sustained severe losses as a result of maritime crime.

Somalia

(Continued from page 1)

Marines make up fewer than 9,000 of the some 25,000 U.S. troops in Somalia but have been assigned the most hazardous jobs, such as patrolling northern Mogadishu at night.

Spokesmen said the Marine killed Monday was hit by one of four to six shots as snipers fired from a house at a patrol west of the soccer stadium where more than 1,000 Marines are encamped.

The patrol returned the fire, but it was not known if the sniper was hit, spokesman said. The Marine, who was not identified pending notification of family, died less than two hours later in a Swedish field hospital.

Marines have regularly been the targets of sniper fire in the area. The other marine was killed there one week ago while on night patrol.

In the space of an hour on Friday, bandits in northern Mogadishu attacked aid workers five times in broad daylight, prompting pleas from relief organisations for more protection.

Marine Colonel Chip Gregson, deputy director of operations for the U.S.-led task force, said Tuesday that the U.S. mission had been more than just escorting convoys.

"It was the creation of a secure environment," he said. "As the original largest threat, the large-scale factional fighting, has been diminished, then the threat shifts to other things and we're trying to develop the appropriate tactics to counter it."

"It starts to look an awful lot like more traditional police work, especially when you start talking about how to provide security for people in the city," Col. Gregson said.

Asked how long U.S. forces would be needed in Somalia, Col. Gregson said: "It's hard to put an estimate on it. How long the U.S. leadership will be needed here is pretty much up to the United Nations and when they feel conditions are appropriate for the U.N. to take over."

That could mean an extended stay. U.N. spokesman Joe Sills has said the United Nations will take control of Somalia peacekeeping forces only gradually.

Customs income accounts for 37% of total revenues

AMMAN (J.T.) — Finance Minister Basel Jaradaneh said Tuesday the Customs Department in Jordan last year collected JD 420 million in duty and fees — nearly 37 per cent of the total domestic revenues of the treasury.

The department was successful despite the adverse consequences of the Gulf crisis, the minister said at a ceremony marking the 40th anniversary of the Brussels-based Customs Cooperation Council (CCC).

Nations around the world observe CCC day because customs have a direct bearing on the lives of all people in all aspects of life, Customs Department Director Mohammad Jamal said in an address at the ceremony.

Outlining the CCC's activities, Mr. Jamal said that apart from collecting duty on imports, the CCC has been instrumental in combating smuggling and drug trafficking operations and commercial fraud.

The CCC has been charged with all matters relating to cooperation in customs and the examination of related technical aspects with the aim of achieving harmony and uniformity.



Basel Jaradaneh

The CCC is also responsible for preparing conventions, recommendations and the application of customs regulations.

In addition it serves in an advisory capacity to other international organisations.

The Minister later distributed awards and diplomas to veteran customs department officials in recognition of their efforts.

To mark the occasion, the Post and Communication Department issued a commemorative stamp bearing the CCC emblem.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition entitled "Latin American Countries in France" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Modernist Still Life Photographed" at the American Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Dhanna, a Village from South Jordan" displaying photos and other items on the village at the Royal Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture, in Arabic, on "The Island Dispute Between the United Arab Emirates and Iran" by Dean of the Faculty of Law at Damascus University Mohammad Aziz Shukri, at the Scientific and Cultural Centre of Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation — 6 p.m.

FILM

- ★ Video film entitled "Three of a Kind" at the British Council — 7 p.m.

Jordan Times Tel: 667171



ANNOUNCEMENT ISSUED BY Jordan University of Science & Technology

Due to several requests submitted by qualified Contractors interested in the Construction of King Abdullah Hospital Project, Jordan University of Science & Technology has extended the closing date for inquiries and submission of tenders as follows:

1. Last date for inquiries will be 15th February 1993.
2. Last date for submission of tenders will be 12:00 noon, Wednesday, 14th of April 1993.

Secretary General
Chairman, Central Tendering Committee



International Community School (The British Curriculum School in Amman)

The International Community School, in Khilda, requires Infant teachers from September 1993. The successful applicant must have full British or equivalent, teaching qualifications and be up-to-date with current principles of good primary practice.

For an application form and further details please contact the Headteacher's Secretary at the School.
Tel: 841070, Fax: 847109
Closing date for applications is Wednesday, 3rd February, 1993

Ministry to upgrade community colleges

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Higher Education plans to upgrade the quality of training at the country's 57 community colleges to ease the unemployment problem, according to the ministry's secretary general, Ahmad Hisban.

The ministry is encouraging the colleges to train students in trades like mechanics, farming, and food processing and to specialise in one or a group of trades that are in demand in the current labour market, Dr. Hisban said.

Of the 57 colleges, 23 are run by the private sector, and the rest are either affiliated to government departments or directly operated by the ministry, he said.

Dr. Hisban said the ministry is directing its own community colleges to reorganise their programmes to meet new trends in the market.

He said some academic specialisations are being cancelled and new technical specialisations and trades are being created.

"Our aim is to help all graduates secure jobs in the labour market here and abroad," Dr. Hisban said.

Some of the new programmes include trades in industrial machinery, medical equipment, handicrafts, printing, and textiles, he said.



Ahmad Hisban

The developments in the Gulf states in the past two years have taught Jordan a lesson: that it should play more attention to industry, Dr. Hisban added.

The ministry has also adopted an administrative plan and mechanism to implement the new programmes, Dr. Hisban said. Ministry teams will conduct a comprehensive assessment of each community college and its performance every four or five years in order to determine whether these programmes are sustainable, he said.

There are also plans to amend the comprehensive examinations as set by the ministry every two years.

The ministry will focus more on the practical rather than theoretical activities of each community college, Dr. Hisban added.

Ahmad Jaser, dean of the Intermediate Community College said it is better for each group of community colleges offering similar programmes to merge or split up into smaller institutes which offer typing and secretarial training rather than theoretical and academic streams.

Dr. Jaser said some community colleges can be converted into specialised vocational training institutes or into fully accredited universities.

He said the closure of the labour market in the Gulf states aggravated the unemployment situation in Jordan making it futile for community colleges to graduate students who find no jobs.

Optimistic about the ministry's plans, Dr. Jaser said speedy solutions are necessary especially with nearly 40,000 students presently enrolled in community colleges but with no clear future.

ILO team ends visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — An International Labour Organisation (ILO) team left for Cairo Tuesday, plans following a four-day meeting with government officials and citizens in which they listened to testimonies on the work conditions in the Israeli occupied territories.

Led by Shukri Dajani, the team plans to visit the occupied territories in February.

While in Jordan, they met with representatives of the General Syndicate of Bakeries in the occupied territories and President of the General Syndicate of Bakery

Owners in Jordan Abdul Ilah Al Hamawi.

The ILO team heard complaints by representatives of West Bank bakeries about the difficulties under Israeli rule including curfews, steep taxes and strikes, which severely affect their lives.

The bakery representatives were asked to submit a memorandum to the ILO team, Mr. Hamawi said.

The ILO officials said they would submit a report on their findings in the Arab region upon their return to the Geneva headquarters.



Eid Qatameh

Balqa gets water services

AIN AL BASHA (Petra) — The Governor of Balqa announced here Tuesday a JD 3.5 million allocation to finance a water network project in the Palestinian refugee camp in the Balqa area during 1993.

At a meeting of local council leaders, camp representatives, and representatives of the Foreign Ministry's Palestinian Affairs Department Governor Eid Qatameh said the project will replace the old rusty and leaky network with a new one and create a water department in the Balqa area to deal with all water issues.

Authorities are also discussing the prospect of setting up a hospital in the region, which is inhabited by more than 150,000 residents; but meanwhile the existing Ein Al Basha Health Centre will be expanded to deal with emergency cases around the clock, Mr. Qatameh said.

He added that JD 25,000 has been allocated to open or repair roads within the refugee camp and to erect traffic lights at the camp's entrance.

The Ain Al Basha municipality submitted requests for the opening of agricultural roads, the establishment of a handicraft zone and a vegetable market, and improvements in transportation and garbage collecting services.

The Abu Nuseir municipal council submitted demands calling for more and regular supplies of water, while the Um Al Dananir municipality demanded telephone services and measures to deal with the foul smell and fly infestation problems stemming from the nearby waste water treatment plant.

The head of the Safout municipal council subcommittee requested agricultural roads as well as measures to solve the transportation and electric power problems.



The Zeid Ben Harithah Tomb (File photo)

AMMAN (J.T.) — To implement the royal directive for the renovation of Shrines in Jordan the supervisory committee charged with the task has enlisted the help of Jordanian engineering firms to draw up appropriate designs for the project.

In a meeting chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Ali Suheimat at King Abdullah Martyr Mosque in Amman, representatives of 24 Jordanian engineering and architectural firms discussed the implementation of the project at three tombs in southern Jordan with the committee members.

The three sites to be renovated are those of the tombs of the companions of the Prophet Mohammad — Jaafar Ben Abi

Taleb, Zeid Ben Harithah and Abdullah Ben Rawaha — located in the town of Mazar in Karak governorate.

His Majesty King Hussein in June directed the government to renovate these shrines and announced a personal contribution of JD 50,000 for the restoration of the Jaafar Ben Abi Taleb shrine.

The Ministry of Awaqaf, which is sponsoring the project, has announced an allocation of JD 3.5 million for the restoration of the shrines, as well as five ancient mosques.

The companions of the Prophet led the Islamic armies against Byzantine forces in the fight against foreign domination of the Arab region.

WITH BEST COMPLIMENTS ON
India's 44th Republic Day
Zarka University Services Est.
Naser Al Maaitah

WITH BEST COMPLIMENTS ON
India's 44th Republic Day
Indo-Jordan Scholars Club
Amman - Jordan

WITH BEST COMPLIMENTS ON
India's 44th Republic Day
Kawar Drug Store
Amman - Jordan

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Harm of words

THE INTERNATIONAL community should take strong exception to the remark of U.S. Secretary of Defence Les Aspin made Sunday to the effect that there is no way that Iraq can meet its obligations under the various U.N. Security Council resolutions as long as its President Saddam Hussein remains at the helm. Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz was right to say in an interview aired Monday that such an absurd interpretation runs counter to the letter and spirit of Security Council resolutions.

It is premature to tell with any degree of certitude whether Aspin's "whimsical interpretation" as Aziz aptly called it, does in fact reflect the perspective of the whole Clinton administration. Aspin is already at loggerheads with his president over the latter's decision to lift the ban on gays serving in the U.S. armed forces. The controversy over this service may indeed suggest that the new administration still lacks coherence in its domestic and foreign policies and may still be in search of its way amidst the traditional confusions that normally accompany the transfer of power in Washington.

President Clinton has yet to assert his leadership by making his internal and external policies more clearly defined in orientation and objectives. The few remarks made by the White House on the Iraqi situation are by no means sufficient to shed light on how the new president will be moving in the weeks and months ahead to resolve the festering Gulf conflict in a meaningful way. If the Clinton administration truly believes that the Iraqi conflict can be resolved by military might alone, then there must be something wrong with this line of thinking. Much more enlightened and sophisticated approach is expected of the man who stood up against the military solution to the Vietnam conflict more than two decades ago.

Surely Iraq should proceed forthwith to introduce elements of democracy and surely the Iraqi people should exercise their fundamental political rights. But to suggest that the U.N. Security Council resolutions imposed on Iraq in the aftermath of its invasion and brief occupation of Kuwait give Aspin or anybody else the right to tell the Iraqis whom they may retain and whom they may depose is something that we cannot understand. The U.S. chief executive is called upon therefore to elucidate his policies on the Middle East region and its disputes by making clear his objectives as soon as possible. Meanwhile, the president may soon discover the need for his outspoken cabinet members to watch their words more closely lest they give the impression that no one is yet in command of policy-making in Washington.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Tuesday welcomed a bid by the Sudanese government to bring about reconciliation between Iran and Iraq. It said it can find no reason for the Arabs and Muslims not to support such a bid at this crucial moment in their history, noting that a united stand is required to stem aggression on the Islamic World. There is no doubt that Tehran, Khartoum and Baghdad have begun to realise that only their joint efforts and unity of ranks can prevent further aggression and abort the colonialist powers' attempts to subjugate the Islamic world, said the daily. The paper said that for two years the Iraqis have been subjected to aggression and there is no doubt that the Sudanese and the Iraqis could be subjected to a similar measure, therefore, it is time for the three Muslim nations to come together and join forces to stem the common enemy and common threats. The paper said that the United States does not conceal its enmity and hostile attitude towards Iraq and the Islamic Nation at large. It said that the Iraqis should realise that the time has come to stand by their Iraqi brothers in their ordeal and the injustice and the sufferings of the women and children. The paper said that the Arabs and Muslims ought to come together and find a way of stemming the common danger.

NOW THAT three envoys have failed to convince the Rabin government to respond favourably to the U.N. Security Council and implement its Resolution 799, said Al Dastour daily, one can only believe that the Israelis have succeeded in persuading the United Nations Organisation that the Palestinian deportees should not be returned. The Palestinians have now spent 40 days exposed to the cold, stranded with no help, despite the world community's efforts to help them return to their homeland, added the paper. The paper said it seems that the Israelis and their Higher Court of Justice have more power than the United Nations and that its decisions rule supreme above the world community's resolution. The paper said that the Israelis would not have remained so obstinate had it not been for continued American support for their policies in the occupied Arab region. Therefore, one can only conclude that the U.N. Security Council is being rendered impotent and has no alternative but to succumb to the whims and desires of Israel and the United States; and one can only expect further double standards manifested by the world organisation in dealing with world issues, the paper added. As long as the United Nations has an absolute power and influence over the United States, the Arabs can never hope to attain their rights or see the Arab-Israeli conflict settled in a fair manner, said the daily. It said that in view of the situation, one can only expect further dangerous situation prevailing in the region in the foreseeable future.

Economic Forum

Is the Jordanian economy overheated?

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

THE ECONOMIC policy of Jordan is interested, in its current stage, in containing banking credit facilities within certain ceilings specified in the economic adjustment programme. The exact goals of this credit squeeze and the mechanism through which it helps in attaining them are not explicitly pronounced in the programme but can be speculated on. Presumably, such squeeze leads to shaving demand for money, which is hopefully expected to curtail demand for imports, thus conserving foreign exchange, and also to stemming aggregate demand, dampening inflationary pressures. The assumption must accordingly be that there is excess liquidity in the economy or a potential one can develop along the way and that this excess is detrimental.

The liquidity of the economy is not exactly the same as the liquidity of the commercial banks but the latter can be a very reliable and accurate proxy for the former. We suggested more than once in this column and elsewhere that the liquidity of the commercial banks be gauged by the voluntary deposits they keep with the Central Bank of Jordan. This is the best measure available for this purpose simply because such deposits earn very low interest, two per cent to a maximum of four per cent. If there is no excess liquidity, banks will find better uses for their funds.

The volume of voluntary deposits moreover measures how liquid the economy is.

On this count, commercial banks have been awash with liquidity for quite a long time, as early as March 1991. Deposits they held with the Central Bank in excess of the legal reserves, that is compulsory deposits, jumped from JD41 million in April 1991 to JD73 million in March 1991. This figure grew to JD424 million at the end of 1991 and stood at JD388 million at the end of October 1992 despite the very important fact that economic activity picked up very considerably during 1992 when a 15 per cent rise in gross domestic product (GDP) failed to mop up the excess liquidity.

Can it be that this dormant liquidity may pose a threat to the economy, in the sense that releasing it into the stream of economic activity may lead to what economists term as the overheating of the economy?

To start with, it must be recalled that overheating means that the injection of money into the economy is translated mainly into higher prices. This happens only when the economy reaches the state of full employment whereby additional money can not create new production facilities that serve to boost supply (due to the

absence of appropriate labour). Instead, additional money competes for the existing output and thus pushes prices upwards.

Coming back to Jordan, one finds that the Jordanian economy suffers not from full employment but from "full unemployment". The rate of inflation has been harnessed within one digit levels. Therefore it is not scientific at all to talk or be fearful of overheating. The overheating argument which has been cited in one or two cases recently is faulty and ill-founded.

There is no need to soak bank liquidity or to suppress its expansion for the sole aim of combating or pre-empting inflation in the present situation, especially if we recall also the quantitative restraints imposed on banks under the adjustment programme. But it might be useful for other important goals such as curtailing demand for imports — whose expansion imposes a burgeoning threat. But then our policymakers will have to do something about the liquidity accruing to importers from their deposits kept abroad. And certainly squeezing credit will help, to a certain extent, in checking prices, but it will simultaneously constrain economic growth in an economy plagued by or endowed with 160,000 unemployed people.

Iraqis unliberated — Clinton should make up for Bush's failure

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — In the first moments of his presidency Wednesday Bill Clinton voiced gracious but distinctly measured praise for George Bush. By applauding Mr. Bush's half-century of public service and omitting reference to his accomplishments as president, Mr. Clinton captured the ambience that has surrounded the transfer of power between the two men: correct, but far from cordial.

The pre-inaugural raids against Iraq added to hidden concern in the Clinton camp over Mr. Bush's handling of the transition. For some Clinton confidants, the raids were proof that Mr. Bush's outwardly courteous leave-taking masked a willingness behind the scenes to rain on the new president's parade.

That may overstate the case. There are alternative explanations for a string of Bush decisions during the transition that have either complicated the opening phase of the Clinton presidency or let pass opportunities to ease the path for the man Mr. Bush styled as a "bozo" on the campaign trail.

Committing U.S. troops to Somalia in November without consulting Mr. Clinton signaled the correct but uncordial pattern. That pattern prevailed to the end as the White House last week rebuffed quiet overtures from the Clinton team for a joint statement on Haiti. Such a statement might have eased Mr. Clinton's task in stepping back from his campaign pledges on Haitian refugees. "They stifled the Clinton people, and it was noticed," says a political source with high-level contacts in both camps.

This atmosphere gave rise to understandable last-minute suspicions that Mr. Bush may not have put Mr. Clinton's interests at the top of his list in waiting so late to launch last weekend's cruise missile strike against Iraq.

The extended final strikes against Iraq were too much too late. In ways that dovish critics never could, the strikes underscored the failure of Mr. Bush's post-Gulf war strategy towards Iraq and the absence of a meaningful approach towards regional conflicts after the cold war.

Saddam Hussein has never ceased to be in violation of significant portions of the United Nations resolutions that brought an end to Operation Desert Storm, two years ago. He could have

been hit any time, with justice and probably with more effect.

Mr. Clinton's behaviour is more likely to be affected by these late strikes than is Saddam Hussein. It will be difficult to be any less assertive than Mr. Bush was in defending the no-flight zones in southern and northern Iraq and the right of U.N. inspectors to enter Iraq. By design or otherwise, Mr. Bush's final days lock Mr. Clinton onto a confrontational course with Iraq.

There is no great sin in that,

nor in the destruction of a dormant factory that could have contributed to a new effort by Saddam Hussein to develop nuclear weapons. Better late than never. But Mr. Clinton inherits a policy that let Saddam Hussein remain strong enough to pick the time of confrontations with the United States and the United Nations, to survive those confrontations and then exploit them politically. The uneasiness that Russia and some of America's Arab partners voiced about the pre-inaugural

strikes amounts to important gains for Saddam Hussein.

Mr. Clinton should move quickly to stem those gains and make clear that he will not tolerate other countries dealing with Saddam Hussein.

The evidence that the Pentagon has amassed on the war crimes committed by Saddam Hussein and his chief aides in Kuwait and Iraq gives the new president a ready-made vehicle to keep him beyond the international pale. Mr. Bush would never

give the green light for a serious effort to have the United Nations brand Saddam Hussein a war criminal. Mr. Clinton should. He should also authorise Vice President Al Gore to meet publicly with representatives from the strongest opposition group, the Iraqi National Congress.

President Clinton should also launch a new effective covert destabilisation programme against Saddam Hussein to replace the halfhearted, clumsy one undertaken by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) under Mr. Bush, and examine the ideas aired last year by Defense Secretary-designate Les Aspin to use force if necessary to set up a United Nations base inside Iraq that would get relief supplies to the Kurds and Shiites.

This would put people first. Mr. Bush used periodic threats and a belated burst of military raids at the end of his presidency to defend principles rather than people.

The principles of the United Nations resolutions that ended the Gulf war are worth protecting. They should have provided the cornerstone of a new approach to world order. But Mr. Bush and his generals, fearful of detracting in any way from the reputation and glory of their 100-hour triumph in the desert, turned blind eye after blind eye to Saddam Hussein's infringements and his new crimes at home, and then let ethnic cleansing proceed in ex-Yugoslavia.

One last brief season of bombing does not erase George Bush's failures in Iraq. Only Bill Clinton, the man Mr. Bush treated contemptuously during the campaign and correctly but not cordially in the transition, can bury Mr. Bush's mistakes. He can do that by adopting the long-term political strategy that will bury Saddam Hussein — The Washington Post.



1993 — a year of commitment to the environment

By Jerry Seilkind

WASHINGTON — The United Nations is beginning to flesh out an environmental vision called "sustainable development" and President-elect Clinton has promised to make the United States a leader in the effort.

That vision won worldwide support at the unprecedented Earth Summit held last June in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, attended by more government heads — about 120 from the 179 countries belonging to the United Nations — than at any previous meeting.

Their work was continued by the U.N. General Assembly, and by the end of 1992 it had created a Commission on Sustainable Development to oversee the most ambitious programme ever devised to protect the global environment while stimulating development in the Third World.

In the United States, voters in November elected as president Bill Clinton, one of whose campaign promises was that "the United States will take the lead in promoting sustainable development." His running mate as vice presidential candidate, Al Gore, was one of the leading environmentalists in the U.S. Senate and often spoke of the need for an agreement with the Third World to stimulate development while protecting the environment.

By the end of 1992, President-elect Clinton had selected what appeared to be an environmentally conscious cabinet. His selections to head the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Energy and Interior departments have urged such programmes as greater conservation of natural resources, increased energy efficiency and more reliance on renewable fuels such as solar energy.

Mr. Clinton and his nominee to head the Energy Department, Hazel O'Leary, said at a news conference that they wanted to change the priorities of the agen-

cy. The bulk of its \$18,800 million budget is spent on producing nuclear weapons and on such research projects as improving the efficiency of coal-fired and nuclear electrical power generation.

A study by the Energy Department in December concluded that government subsidies to the energy industry total \$5,000 million to \$10,000 million a year, depending on how a subsidy is defined. Environmental groups have been particularly active since the November election in urging more spending for solar and natural gas research and less for nuclear programmes.

One reason these groups strongly supported Mr. Clinton and Mr. Gore was their belief that the two would take the United States towards a sustainable development future. Environmentalists say they have not been disappointed with Mr. Clinton's remarks and cabinet appointments since the election. His choice for the top environmental job in the government, head of EPA, is Carol Browner, a Florida environmental official and a former assistant in Mr. Gore's Senate office.

At the United Nations, the General Assembly adopted in December "Agenda 21," an 800-page environmental and development programme negotiated at the Earth Summit. U.S. officials have called Agenda 21 an "extraordinary document" because it lists just about all environmental problems and indicates how to overcome them.

One of the issues in Agenda 21 most debated at the Earth Summit and the General Assembly meeting was the power of the Sustainable Development Commission.

"The assembly decided that information will be provided to the commission by governments on a voluntary basis," a U.N. official explained in a recent interview. The reason the reports

are voluntary, he said, is that with no agreed-on definition of sustainable development there is no way to gauge progress towards that goal.

"What is sustainable for one country may be different for another country. There are no clearly defined norms of what sustainable development is," he said.

The hundreds of non-governmental organisations at the Earth Summit pushed for mandatory annual reports by each country, arguing that progress could be judged by how close each came to achieving the hundreds of goals stated in Agenda 21. In addition, they wanted the commission to have the power to investigate environmental problems anywhere in the world.

Developing countries, however, successfully opposed compulsory reporting and expanded powers for the commission. And they met little opposition in demanding that the commission monitor the amount of aid developed countries give to developing countries to help them overcome their environmental problems.

In a compromise, citizens' organisations were given the right to sit on the commission and to submit reports about problems in a country regardless of the feelings of its government.

The officers of the committee are scheduled to be elected at an organisational meeting in early February at the New York headquarters of the United Nations. The membership has been limited to 53 governments, which will serve on a rotating basis.

The first substantive commission meeting to discuss implementation of Agenda 21 will probably be held in May or June. The commission is expected to meet annually thereafter.

The General Assembly also began to put flesh on a call by the Earth Summit for a treaty to combat desertification in coun-

tries suffering from drought, particularly in Africa. It voted by consensus to create an inter-governmental committee to begin negotiations in February.

It also authorised creation of a multidisciplinary panel of experts to help negotiators deal with technical issues.

More than 150 countries at the Earth Summit signed a sweeping but not legally binding treaty to try to limit emissions of the greenhouse gases, which trap heat on Earth, to 1990 levels by the year 2000. An inter-governmental panel of scientists has been warning that the world would significantly warm if such gases as carbon dioxide, produced by the burning of such fuels as coal, oil and wood, are not checked. A warming could lead to drastic changes in climate, the panel said.

The treaty was tinged with controversy because the United States was the single major country unwilling to commit itself to a legally binding target of greenhouse gas emission levels. The Bush administration insisted that there was too much scientific uncertainty to justify reducing the use of fuels the U.S. and other industrial economies depend on so heavily.

The Bush administration also was heavily criticised at the Earth Summit for refusing to sign a treaty to protect the areas of the world rich in a diversity of plant and animal life.

U.S. officials objected that the treaty did not protect the rights of companies that developed products from the genetic resources in these biologically rich areas.

In looking back on the Earth Summit, Bush administration EPA head William Reilly said in December that it marked the point at which the environment became intertwined with the major issues facing developing and industrialised countries. "It showed that environmental ques-

tions must be addressed in connection with issues such as trade, energy, agriculture and economic development," he wrote.

Environmental issues certainly have become entangled with trade issues in the United States. The Bush administration reached a free-trade agreement with Mexico and Canada in October that Mr. Reilly has called the "greenest" international economic accord ever negotiated.

But President-elect Clinton said during the election campaign that he had some concerns about the environmental effects of the proposed agreement, which has not yet been approved by Congress. Almost all environmental groups have joined a campaign to block approval, charging that the agreement will create pollution havens in Mexico.

They believe that U.S. companies would move to Mexico to escape stringent environmental regulations in the United States. Administration officials have tried to counter that argument by pointing out that the proposed agreement allows any of the three countries to raise an issue in a procedure designed to settle disputes.

The United States signed or took action on three other major international environmental treaties in 1992. First, officials from the United States and 92 other countries agreed in November to speed up the phase-out of chemicals that are depleting the protective ozone shield in the atmosphere.

They agreed to phase out the use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and carbon tetrachloride by January 1, 1996, four years faster than the original timetable.

Several other chemicals also will be phased out sooner than previously planned, all because they deplete the layer of ozone that helps protect humans from skin cancer and cataracts. A permanent fund also will

help developing countries purchase or manufacture substitutes for the ozone-destroying chemicals. Developed countries have pledged \$113 million to the fund for 1993 and 1994.

Second, the U.S. Senate approved in October the treaty to ban mining and drilling in Antarctica for at least 50 years and to regulate strictly other activities that could damage its fragile environment.

A major feature of the legislation that would have to be reintroduced in Congress to make U.S. law conform to the treaty is defining household garbage and the ash remaining from its incineration as hazardous wastes.

In many respects, however, U.S. regulations already parallel the treaty. For example, hazardous wastes may not be shipped to another country unless that other government gives written permission for the import.

Almost all of U.S. hazardous waste shipments now go for disposal or recycling to Canada and to Mexico for recycling only. The United States has agreements with Canada and Mexico for regulating such shipments. Administration officials have said they were not planning to negotiate any new bilateral agreements.

In looking back in December on the development of U.S. environmental policy over the decades and his four years as EPA administrator, Mr. Reilly said that the United States continues to have the world's strictest regulations and less pollution than ever.

Most important, he said, is that environmental protection grew while the economy expanded. He strongly argued that developing countries should not fear that curbing pollution and protecting their environment would jeopardise their economic growth — United States Information Agency.

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Ghali recommends U.N. action

(Continued from page 1)

Israel's priority was preventing the setting of deadlines for obeying resolution 799 and he told army radio: "We have partners who understand the seriousness of the matter."

The foreign ministry said sanctions could undermine Middle East peace talks. However, they have already been thrown into uncertainty, with Palestinians refusing to attend until the evictees are returned.

Israeli officials also criticised Dr. Ghali for not waiting until Israel's supreme court ruled on the legality of the expulsions. The court, which has rarely differed with Israeli governments on security issues, allowed expulsions to proceed in December.

Israel Radio said Dr. Ghali's report accused Israel of "defying the authority of the Security Council." Mr. Yasbolsky said it was unclear whether he recommended sanctions against Israel.

"I don't want to respond except to one thing," Mr. Rabin told reporters. "The report is an example of double standard, completely ignoring terrorism and singling out only the steps taken against it," Mr. Rabin added.

Saddam will stay, Iraq tells world

(Continued from page 1)

posed after Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

U.N. ballistic experts Tuesday began a long-term monitoring project at an undisclosed Iraqi missile site. The nuclear team, meanwhile, said it was conducting a "resident inspection."

Nikita Smidovich, a Russian who heads the ballistic team, told reporters his group would visit the missile site every day for a month to make technical assessments of the facilities, equipment, building and programme.

After the first trip Tuesday he told reporters: "We do not expect to find prohibited things, we do not expect something dramatic."

He would give no further details of what he described as a "continuous or long-term" project.

Iraq has told the United Nations that all of its long-range missiles, such as the Scuds fired on Israel and Saudi Arabia during the Gulf war, have been destroyed in accordance with Security Council ceasefire resolutions that ended the 1991 conflict.

The U.N. special commission, which has the job of ensuring that weapons of mass destruction are eliminated, needs long-term monitoring to make sure this is the case and that Iraq does not revive its missile programme.

Western intelligence sources have said as many 100 Scuds may still be hidden.

Maurizio Zifferero, head of the nuclear inspection team, said he was considering appointing a "resident inspector" but added that the issue had not been formally raised.

He described his team's trip Tuesday to an undisclosed site as "just verifying" previous work.

Mr. Zifferero said Monday that Iraq says the United Nations already knows 90 per cent — about 80 companies — of its foreign suppliers, and is willing to supply information on the rest.

Mr. Zifferero said he would continue to press for a full accounting of the foreign suppliers. He said there might be 10 to 15 more companies, according to the Iraqis.

"Their statements still must be verified and I am sceptical," he told the Associated Press. "I'm sure it must be larger."

The names of the companies on the list have not been disclosed by U.N. officials, but Mr. Zifferero said they were based in Germany, the United States, France, Switzerland, Italy and other countries.

He said the trade with Iraq was "legitimate activity in most cases" but added: "In other cases we have informed the governments and they are carrying out investigation of cases where they have breached internal regulations on exports."

Under the Gulf war ceasefire, Iraq control the possession and use of fire arms pending the holding of a special meeting by the House to discuss the issue.

The House will also discuss resolutions by its judiciary committee amending Election Law No. 22 of 1986, a law banning Freemasons in Jordan, an amendment to the 1992 youth welfare draft law and other decisions and proposals.

On Tuesday, the Lower House's administrative committee held a meeting under the chairmanship of Deputy Daoud Kojak and discussed proposals

concerning the administrative constituencies in Jordan.

The meeting, which was attended by Interior Minister Shouab and Agriculture Minister Fayez Al Khawashneh, also discussed complaints by poultry farmers in the Kingdom.

In addition, the committee discussed complaints presented by the president of the Jordanian Medical Association, several government officials and citizens.

The House's Public Freedoms and Citizens' Rights Committee also met Tuesday and discussed complaints presented by citizens.

Abdul Shafi: U.S. will pressure Israel

(Continued from page 1)

through a phased return of the Palestinians.

Mr. Hawatmeh, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), said the proposal was "a gradual solution to the return of the (evictees) over 24 months...under which the (evictees) would return in batches with the last batch going in the 24th month."

"The aim is to prevent the imposition of sanctions on Israel and to fragment the united Palestinian position (in favour of) all the (evictees) returning immediately," he told Reuters in an interview in Damascus.

Mr. Hawatmeh said the DFLP had definite information that here were manoeuvres under way between Washington, Cairo and Israel to undermine the Security Council resolution. He did not say where his information

came from.

Last week a Western diplomat in Cairo said Egypt was suggesting a phased return of the evictees to defuse the crisis.

Mr. Hawatmeh, whose group opposes Palestinians taking part in peace talks under the present terms of reference laid down by the United States, said Washington hoped to produce a solution that would enable negotiations to resume on schedule next month.

The Israeli high court is expected to rule on the legality of the expulsions later this week. Officials hope the ruling will help clear up the problem.

Civil rights lawyer have asked the court to reverse the expulsions on the grounds that the Palestinians were denied the right to appeal before they were banished.

ity Council.

He also appeared to agree with arguments from Arab states which accuse the Security Council of a double standard in enforcing resolutions against Iraq but not against Israel.

"There is a growing perception throughout the international community, that the council, by not pressing for Israeli compliance with its resolution, of which Resolution 799 is only the latest, does not attach equal importance to the implementation of all of its decisions," he said.

Dr. Ghali's long-awaited report was requested by the council.

The U.N. chief also said he would attempt to implement a 1990 Security Council resolution calling for a U.N. monitoring mechanism in the occupied territories.

He said he would initiate discussions with Israeli authorities on this issue to assure Palestinians "that the international community is not neglecting their need for safety and protection, a need which must be met regardless of progress in the (Middle East) peace talks."

Dr. Ghali outlined his personal contacts with Israeli leaders and three missions to Israel, one by U.N. Undersecretary-General James Jonah and two by special envoy Chinmaya Gharekhan, India's former U.N. ambassador.

Mr. Gharekhan in the report dismissed comments from Mr. Rabin that if the Security Council failed to adopt measures against Israel it might lead to a collapse of the Middle East peace talks.

In reply, the report quoted Mr. Gharekhan as saying Israel alone would be responsible for any breakdown of the talks.

Mr. Gharekhan noted Israel could place the deportees in prison or administrative detention which was not in violation of Fourth Geneva Convention, the report said.

U.S. officials said the Clinton administration, faced with its first tough situation in the Middle East, is telling Arab governments it could not support a drive in the United Nations to punish Israel.

The U.S. officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Clinton administration also was telling the Arabs to wait for a ruling on the expulsions by Israel's supreme court.

Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin spoke by telephone Sunday. They talked about a possible trip to the area by Mr. Christopher but no decisions were taken, the U.S. officials said.

President Clinton talked to Mr. Rabin Saturday in response to a congratulatory letter from the Israeli leader.

The two conversations indicate the new administration intends to give high priority to the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is trying to persuade Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Palestinians and Israel to resume their peace talks here.

Judith Kipper, Middle East specialist for the Brookings Institution, said in an interview it would be very difficult to reopen the negotiations without a settlement of the expulsion problem.

Ms. Kipper, who returned Sunday night from a five-week trip to Kuwait, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, said the Arabs were determined to move ahead on the talks as soon as possible.

"But with the deportees, their public opinion is up in arms," she said. "We are bashing Iraq every two hours and we don't budge on the deportees and on Bosnia."

Geoffrey Kemp, senior associate on the Middle East for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said: "Certainly the United States

should not go along with sanctions against Israel."

"We should work closely with the Israeli government, hoping and praying the (Israeli) supreme court solves the problem for us," said Mr. Kemp, who was in charge of the National Security Council's Middle East desk.

"If not," he said, "we should explore fall-back positions, like a redeployment of the Palestinians to the (Israeli-held) security zone (in Lebanon) as a first step in reconsidering each case individually under Israeli law."

Diplomats from five Arab countries called at the State Department Friday to try to bring pressure on Israel to readmit the evictees.

The diplomats presented a Jan. 12 Arab League statement to Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian Friday, demanding Israel relent and calling on the Security Council to order sanctions to force the repatriation. "They discussed the deportation issue with a view toward resolving it in a constructive manner," the State Department said afterwards.

Later Tuesday, Mr. Rabin said his government had no plans to resettle the Palestinian evictees in Israel's "security zone" in South Lebanon.

"Neither my government nor myself have any idea about this," Mr. Rabin told reporters. He made the comment after a two-hour meeting with Antoine Lahd, commander of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia.

Tel. 3,000-man SLA, headquartered in Marjayoun, patrols the zone alone with about 1,500 Israeli troops.

"The deportation is for one and one-half to two years and all of them will be allowed to return after the lapse of that period," Mr. Rabin said.

Mr. Rabin said Dr. Ghali had not taken into consideration the "violence of Hamas."

"Hamas kills Israelis and Palestinians in order to stop the peace talks," Mr. Rabin said. "I am convinced of eliminating the activities of Hamas. It's a political goal in order to safeguard peace."

Mr. Rabin said he hoped the Lebanese state would allow the evictees to leave to a third country through Lebanese territory, "a suggestion Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri has repeatedly rejected

Houbara bustard is aphrodisiac delicacy for Arab hunters

By Ibrahim Khan Reuter

KHAR, Pakistan — Senior officials and wildlife experts are furious about troupes of Arab princes armed with falcons, careering through the deserts of southern Pakistan in motor cavalcades hunting an aphrodisiac bird.

Their anger has ruffled feathers in the Foreign Ministry and raised nervous twitters from Middle Eastern ministers.

The sudden chorus of squawking is about the houbara bustard, a large and rather plain bird much prized by the princely Arab huntmen for the cunning of its evasive tactics and the reputed aphrodisiac qualities of its meat.

The bird lives in Siberia and flies south in October to winter in the warmer climes of Pakistan's southern deserts.

In January and February, the Arab princes fly into Pakistan aboard their private jets bringing hunting parties equipped with four-wheel drive vehicles, generators, satellite dishes — and falcons — wildlife officials say.

Hunting of the houbara bustard has been banned in Pakistan since 1983, but each year the Foreign Ministry issues special permits to a number of Arab royal families.

This year the Foreign Ministry has already issued 15 permits and is expected to grant more than 30, said one wildlife official in the southern city of Karachi.

Government officials and wildlife officials are screaming.

"We have complained to the government that we cannot protect the bird unless a total ban is

applied," said Syed Qabool Muhammad Shah, minister for agriculture and wildlife in the southern province of Sind.

Arab sheikhs receive permits from the central government in Islamabad each year despite the ban, Mr. Shah complained during a recent visit to the Khar centre of the Khirthar National Park, 75 kilometre west of Karachi.

The minister said his department had increased vigilance at Karachi airport, from where live birds are smuggled to the Gulf where they fetch up to \$750 each.

At least 1,500 birds were seized in 1992, and some were freed in Khirthar National Park, Mr. Shah said.

Last November, officials arrested seven Qatar nationals and seized five falcons and several houbara in Thatta in southern Pakistan. The Qataris were released after payment of a \$3,000 fine for hunting bustard and keeping falcons.

Mr. Shah said the Sind government had proposed raising the fine to 5,000 rupees from 1,500 per bird and a year's imprisonment at present.

He said he had received unconfirmed reports that poached birds were now being smuggled to the Gulf from ports along the Baluchistan coast.

One reason the central government may be reluctant to halt the hunting is money, said a banker at state-run United Bank.

This sport of princes swells Pakistan's meagre foreign exchange reserves each spring. One small hunting party of 20 people, including cooks, drivers and falconers, can spend up to \$500,000 to kill 200 birds in a

single week, the banker said.

The bird is also a source of "houbara diplomacy" — strengthening ties with the Gulf countries, he said.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Siddiqui Khan Kanju and Information Minister Abdul Sattar Lalika told editors last week in Islamabad that media campaigns against bustard hunting had embarrassed the government and asked them to halt bad publicity about the Arab royal families.

The government fears the media furore could threaten ties with Gulf countries, newspapers reported.

UAE Culture Minister Khalifa Bin Mohammad Al Roumi this month said the aim of the royal huntmen was not to kill.

"The houbara hunting is done as a sport for which falcons are used and no shooting is involved," Mr. Al Roumi told Pakistan's official APP news agency.

"If houbara hunting were the objective, Siberia would have been a much better place where these birds originate and are found in abundance," he said. He offered UAE help to Pakistan to protect the houbara bustard.

Witnesses say the hunt is exciting. The houbara bustard, a large, brownish bird that looks rather like a Turkey and can have a wing span of up to 2.5 metres, swerves, dodges and dives to evade the falcon.

"It is a very clever bird and this makes for good sport," said one wildlife official. "It is not an easy prey."

WITH BEST COMPLIMENTS ON India's 44th Republic Day

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Sabatini, Seles, Graf, Sanchez Vicario in semifinals

MELBOURNE (AP) — Third-seeded Gabriela Sabatini had to stave off three match points before she downed 18-year-old Mary Pierce of France 4-6, 7-6 (14-12), 6-0 in the quarterfinals of the Australian Open.

In a nailbiting match, the lanky Argentine overcame seven service breaks to oust the 10th-seeded Pierce, who was playing her first Australian Open.

The match did not get under way until nearly 11 p.m. because a men's doubles match went more than five hours and delayed the start of the night programme.

Sabatini's hard-fought, nearly three-hour victory came on a day when all the women favourites struggled but won.

Two-time defending champion Monica Seles, the top seed, won a war of attrition to oust unseeded Julie Halard of France 6-2, 6-7 (5-7), 6-0. She now will play Sabatini.

Second-seeded Graf of Germany beat No. 7 Jennifer Capriati 7-5, 6-2. In the semifinals, the German will face unseeded Christian Bergstrom in an all-Swede matchup. No. 3 Pete Sampras meets unseeded Brett Steven of New Zealand, and No. 11 Guy Forget takes on No. 14 Michael Stich.

Pierce used her all-around game, particularly a ferocious forehand, to take advantage of the inconsistent serve that has bedeviled Sabatini since a warmup tournament, breaking her seven times.

Seles, the top seed, had been virtually untouchable, losing only eight games in four matches before running into the 29th-ranked Halard, who was playing in the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam for the first time in 23 years.

Halard appeared to be unfazed from the beginning by Seles' barrage of blistering groundstrokes. Seles looked as if she would overwhelm Halard quickly, breaking to go up 4-2, then finishing off the first set in 28 minutes when Halard was broken again on four errors.

But Halard refused to fold, taking advantage of her first opportunity to break Seles to go up 4-3. She served for the second set at 5-4, only to have Seles break to even the match.

Seles held, then had triple match point at 0-40 in the next game. The gutsy Halard pounded two service winners, sandwiched around a good volley that Seles hit long. After Seles netted a backhand, Halard blasted an ace to force the tiebreaker.

Halard never trailed in the tiebreaker, finishing it off on her second set point with a forehand crosscourt winner.

Seles then moved into top gear, and Halard started showing the results of the sideline-to-sideline running she was forced to do to keep up with Seles early.

Seles moved ahead 15-40 in the first game of the third set. Halard was called for a foot fault, then double-faulted to hand the game to Seles.

That seemed to deflate the heavy underdog, who double-faulted twice more in her last



Germany's Steffi Graf is in full stretch after hitting a backhand to Jennifer Capriati of the U.S. (AFP photo)

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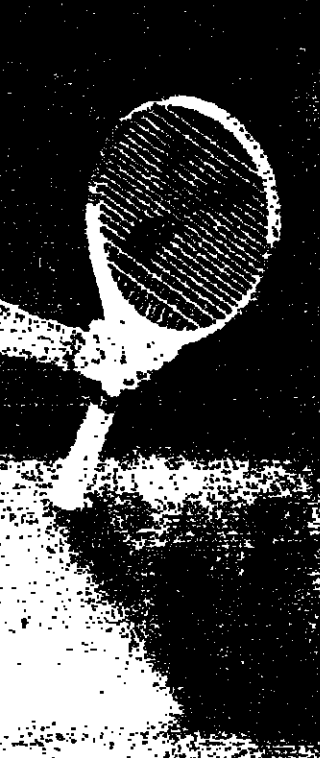
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Gabriela Sabatini



1991 title-holders Al Orthodoxi

1st Division Basketball Championship Orthodoxi upset Ahli 84-81; Jazireh secure 3rd place

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Orthodoxi Tuesday needed an overtime to overcome all-time rivals Al Ahli 84-81 and force a third deciding match for the 1992 First Division Basketball Championship title.

The match, held under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Aisha Bint Al Hussein, was attended by an unprecedented 7000 basketball fans. It was one of the most competitive both teams have played throughout their decade-long rivalry.

Had Al Ahli won they would have taken the trophy home as they had defeated Al Orthodoxi 68-65 in the first round. However, Al Orthodoxi's win means that both teams are now even and will play a deciding match Friday to determine the 1992 champion.

The match went into overtime after the second half ended with the scoreboard showing a 75-75 tie which Al Orthodoxi managed to secure in the final seconds.

Waleed Badran led Al Ahli to an early lead at the beginning of the first half, followed by two three-pointers by Marwan Ma'touq that gave Al Ahli only a slim 12-11 lead that seemed to somewhat predict

that the match would be a very close one.

Al Ahli's Naser Bushnaq secured rebounding as his team kept the lead 20-15. However Al Orthodoxi's Barakat brothers, Hilal and Murad scored 15 consecutive points, including 3 three-pointers by Murad giving their team a 30-24 lead.

Scoring remained close with Al Ahli regaining the lead at 36-32 after Badran successfully penetrated Al Orthodoxi's defences and burdened their players with many fouls.

Al Ahli kept their lead at 40-36 after a slam dunk by Ramez Hammoudh. Yousef Zaghloul lost some foul shots while Hilal Barakat scored to end the first half 41-40 for Al Orthodoxi.

Al Ahli seemed to lose their energy and rhythm at the beginning of the second half. Al Orthodoxi led 45-44 as their undisputed stars, the Barakat brothers, scored ten points to give their team a commanding 54-44 lead.

Al Orthodoxi widened their lead to 67-53. Meanwhile Al Ahli regained their teamwork effort as Ma'touq, Badran and Samir Murqus scored to narrow the gap to 72-66 with 1 minute remaining. Ahli substitute Sami Sa'adudin scored

but Al Orthodoxi led 74-70.

Al Ahli's undisputed star Matouq had not given up as he scored a three-pointer followed by two free throws to give his team a 75-74 lead with 15 seconds remaining. Al Orthodoxi tied after Muntaser Abul Tayyeb scored from a technical foul on Marwan Al Saeedi.

As the match went into overtime Al Orthodoxi played with greater concentration and took advantage of free throws to lead 80-75. Al Ahli tied after a three-pointer by Ma'touq.

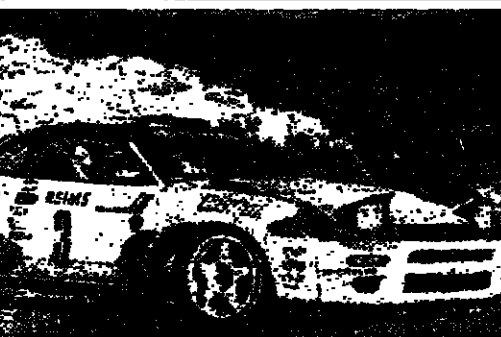
Al Orthodoxi again took the lead after Amjad Al Tanbour scored, while Al Ahli played hastily and lost the chance to equalise and possibly win. Al Orthodoxi scored a very precious 84-81 win.

Both teams will now clash again Friday Jan. 29 at the Sports Palace Court.

Al Jazireh on the other hand won third place as they edged out competition from Al Hussein and Al Jalil.

Al Hussein earned fourth place after overcoming Al Watani 98-97 in double overtime.

Al Abbasi and Homentmen were relegated to the second division while two newcomers Al Wifaq and Al Ashrafiah joined the First Division.

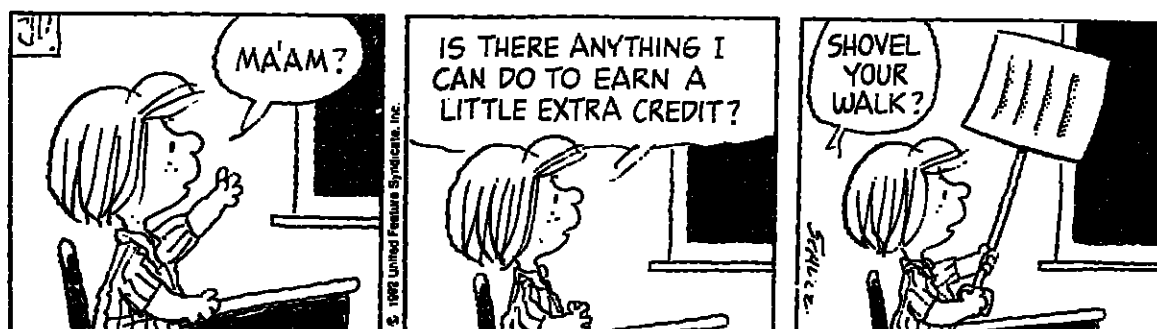


France's Didier Auriol in a Toyota Celica during the 16th special stage of the Monte Carlo Rally (AFP photo)

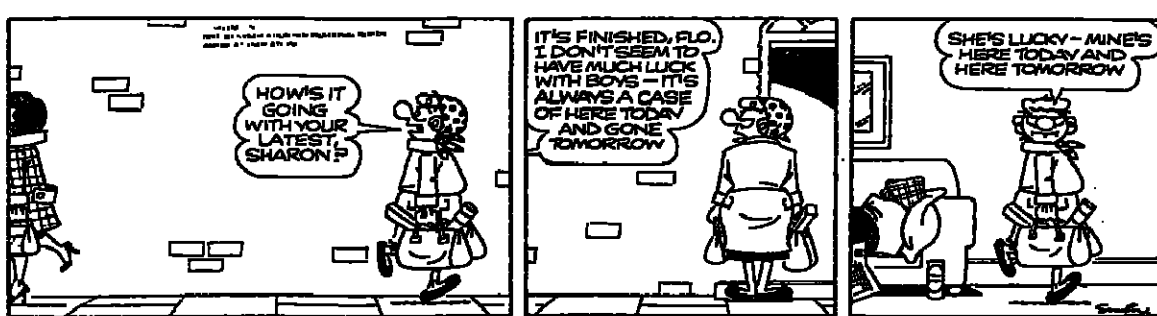


Italian rally driver Miki Biasion is second in the overall standings behind Francois Delecour (AFP photo)

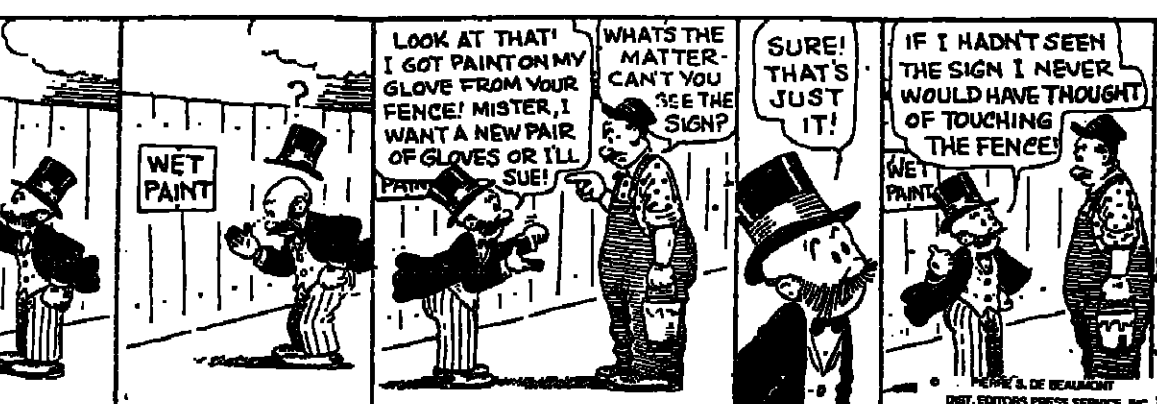
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JANUARY 27, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Flight Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Moon in Aries seems to jump every time, so rethink all impulses today. Be aware that your thinking processes are likely being coloured through emotional bias.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can consider your own special talents today and tonight and study the best means by which they can be made to work in your own existence.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Your home affairs are wisely prospected today and if you attend to them in a conscientious fashion you find that the accord there is increased.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You are able to utilize lessons you have learned in the past to benefit you very much now so don't run away from problems for you will solve them well.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You are thinking about your material affairs and how to have more of this world's goods than you have at present which is a good idea now.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You are tied down to getting personal wishes done during the daytime so get into them with vigour and tonight you find a solution to perplexing issues.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You are pondering during the day why you have not advanced

farther towards desired aims but remain steadfast and tonight you have added inspiration.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A good day for you to let good friends know just what your personal and intimate aims are and to accept their assistance in obtaining them now.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Outside interests can seem to limit you in the morning but painstaking attention to them brings you added respect, good while tonight go out on the town for pleasures.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) An older experienced newcomer has excellent ideas for your advancement, so seek him/her into letting you in on them and tonight put in effect with enthusiasm.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is the day to make a list of your various activities and get one who has made a success in these directions to advise you how best to handle them.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A generous minded associate you have known for someone will extend you assistance you desire and tonight entertain that person at your best.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your surroundings can be improved today and tonight by adding more colour, beauty and efficiency to them and tonight enjoy them, desired recreations.

THE BETTER HALF.

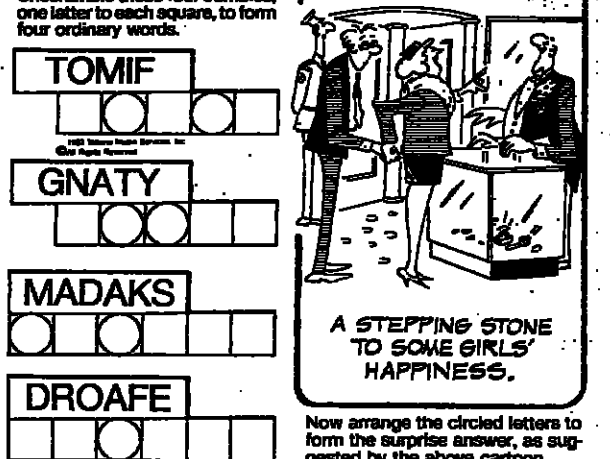
By Harris



"They say green M&M's make you more romantic! Come on, have another!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

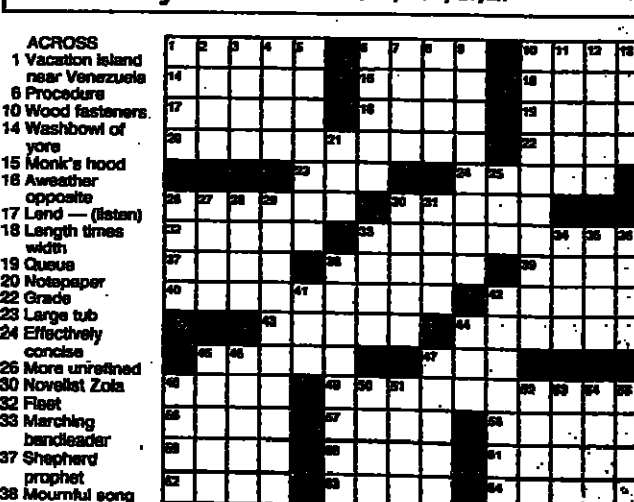


Print answer here: A

Jumbles: AUGUR TRUTH CARBOY FORGER

Answer: The way it is with many a borrower—TOUCH AND GO

THE Daily Crossword by Harry Bryen



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH

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DUCK SOUP

North-South vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH

AK 9 5 2

10

A 8 7

K 9 8 7

WEST

Q J 10 4 3

8 6

6 4

A K Q 7 3 2

10 6

A J 5 2

10

SOUTH

7

J 9 8 5

K Q 4 2

Q 8 4 3

The bidding:

East South West North

2 Pass 2 Pass 3 Pass 3 Pass

3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of

Lines of communication are often

essential, for both declarer and the

defenders. Many battles over the

green baize involve complicated

an champion Per-Olov Sundelin of

Sweden. His opening two-diamond

bid showed a weak two in one of the

major, a convention very popular

in Europe. West's two-heart re-

sponse directed East to pass if the

opening bid showed a heart suit,

otherwise to correct to two spades.

The rest of the auction was natural.

Let's suppose East were to win

the heart opening lead. Whether or

not East were to continue with

hearts, declarer can always make

the contract by taking advantage of

the favorable lie in clubs. When the

ten of clubs drops under the queen,

the Principle of Restricted Choice

suggests declarer finesse West for

the jack—the ten is more likely to be

a singleton than specifically from J

10 doubleton. That would give de-

clarer two spade tricks, four dia-

monds and three clubs.

Unfortunately, South was given

no chance to display any skill at

dummy play—Sundelin ducked the

first heart and declarer had scored a

cheap heart trick. However, declarer

had only seven fast tricks—four dia-

monds, two spades and the heart. As

soon as West gained the lead with

the ace of clubs, a heart return

would permit East to cash five heart

tricks for a two-trick set.

هكذا من العمل

Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 25/1/93	Tokyo Close Date 26/1/93
Sterling Pound	1.5575	1.5612
Deutsche Mark	1.5770	1.5773
Swiss Franc	1.4465	1.4473
French Franc	5.3325	5.3375 **
Japanese Yen	123.45	123.90
European Currency Unit	1.2440	1.2417 **

* USD Per STG
** European Opening (9:00 a.m. GMT)

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.00	3.18	3.31	3.68
Sterling Pound	7.38	7.06	6.63	6.43
Deutsche Mark	8.62	8.27	8.00	7.48
Swiss Franc	5.31	5.37	5.31	5.18
French Franc	12.13	11.70	10.50	9.30
Japanese Yen	3.56	3.43	3.38	3.31
European Currency Unit	9.69	9.69	9.50	8.81

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	329.25	6.45	Silver	3.70	.080

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 26/1/93

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.684	0.686
Sterling Pound	1.0669	1.0722
Deutsche Mark	0.4337	0.4359
Swiss Franc	0.4727	0.4751
French Franc	0.1283	0.1289
Japanese Yen	0.5517	0.5545
Dutch Guilder	0.3856	0.3875
Swedish Krona	0.0966	0.0971
Italian Lira	0.0471	0.0473
Belgian Franc	0.02042	0.02052

Other Currencies Date: 26/1/93

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7950	1.8050
Lebanese Lira	0.0550	0.0600
Saudi Riyal	0.1820	0.1830
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2300	2.2900
Qatari Riyal	0.1846	0.1870
Egyptian Pound	0.1950	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7440	1.7590
UAE Dirham	0.1846	0.1870
Greek Drachma	0.3200	0.3310
Cypriot Pound	1.4450	1.4725

CAE Index for Amman Financial Market

Index	24/1/93	Close	25/1/93	Close
All-Share	193.06		191.03	
Banking Sector	141.99		139.40	
Insurance Sector	212.46		208.67	
Industry Sector	262.56		261.16	
Services Sector	255.50		254.82	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One U.S. dollar	1.2718/23	Canadian dollar	1.5768/78
	1.7720/30	Deutsche marks	1.4518/28
	32.45/49	Dutch guilders	32.45/49
	5.3320/70	Belgian francs	1447/1452
	1447/1452	French francs	123.75/80
	7.0650/70	Italian lire	1447/1452
	6.6900/7000	Japanese yen	123.75/80
	6.0600/700	Swedish crowns	123.75/80
	1.5410/20	Norwegian crowns	123.75/80
One sterling	1.5410/20	Danish crowns	123.75/80
One ounce of gold	329.20/329.70		

Sears plans 50,000 job cuts

CHICAGO (AP) — Sears, Roebuck and Co. says it will cut about 50,000 full- and part-time jobs, close 113 stores and shut down its "big book" catalog in its most drastic move yet to revitalize its retailing business.

Sears also said Monday it would discontinue some of its auto-repair services and sell a chain of women's apparel stores. Eliminating the catalog also means closing some 2,000 Sears catalog stores, most owned by independent retailers.

The cuts are the deepest Sears has made in the four years since the company began overhauling its merchandising group to combat declining sales and market share. Sears estimated the moves would save it \$300 million a year.

The austerity measures were more severe than most retail industry analysts expected, prompting praise for Arthur Martinez, the former Saks Fifth Avenue executive brought in by Sears Chairman Edward Brennan last August to revive the retailing unit.

"We have tried to attack all our nonperforming businesses, non-performing locations and non-strategic assets and to deal with them at one time," Mr. Martinez said in an interview. "I would like to believe this is a full and complete resolution of all of our major problems."

Sears said it would eliminate 16,000 full-time jobs and 34,000 part-time jobs within the Sears merchandise group, which runs the company's 859 stores, the catalog and Sears credit operations. The unit employs nearly 350,000 of Sears' 435,000 workers, about 112,000 of them as full-timers.

The company said it will take a \$1.97 billion after-tax charge in the just-ended fourth quarter to cover the costs of the cuts. Sears said all of the changes should be completed by early 1994, an estimate analysts called optimistic.

Rouble plunges to 568 to dollar

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Fear of hyperinflation sent the rouble spinning to a new low in Moscow Tuesday, increasing the cost of imported goods and threatening to punch a hole in a groaning budget deficit.

Traders at Moscow's tiny inter-bank currency exchange drove the rouble down to 568 to the dollar at a longer than usual session of more than an hour. A record \$84.83 million changed hands.

The currency had traded at 493 per dollar at the previous session Thursday and at 417 at the start of the year.

"We thought (the rouble) would fall a little, but not by this much," said an exchange spokesman.

Economists said the rouble's fall would push the price of imports up. If the government continued subsidizing some imports by offering exporters cash at a special exchange rate, government spending and the budget deficit would both soar.

The old Soviet rouble, still used in most former Soviet republics, is not freely convertible on world markets.

But twice weekly sessions on the Moscow exchange give some 60 banks limited opportunities to

buy and sell dollars. The Russian central bank uses the rate set on the exchange as its semi-fixed "market rate."

"If the central bank buys dollars at the market rate it will make it more expensive for Russia to service foreign debt," said one Western economist.

Dealers said banks had dumped the rouble on fears that a huge injection of central bank cash in December would turn Russia's already high inflation into hyperinflation.

Russian prices rose over 2,200 per cent in 1992. Weekly inflation rates rose further this month after the central bank pumped an estimated one trillion roubles into the economy.

A senior government official said last week that inflation might reach 50 per cent in January.

Economists say this rate means a country has crossed the threshold to hyperinflation, when prices rise a staggering 10,000 per cent a year and money loses virtually all value.

"I am convinced that today for the Russian government, for parliament and, most important, for the central bank, the key task is to rein in inflation," Deputy Prime Minister Anatoly Chubais told a news conference.

Government officials, including new chief economic strategist Boris Fyodorov, have said curbing inflation and supporting the rouble are the government's key priorities.

But efforts to slow monetary growth to drive inflation down face strong opposition from Russia's free-spending central bank, which is controlled by a conservative parliament anxious to index wage and pension rates to inflation.

Russia this week said it was issuing new banknotes to run in parallel with the old notes, virtually all of which still bear the hammer and sickle emblem of the former Soviet Union.

The central bank said the new notes aimed to crack down on forgery. But the decision to bring in new banknotes inevitably fueled rumors that Russia planned to introduce its own national currency to replace the rouble.

The central bank press office was not available to comment on the rumors.

The former Soviet government sparked mass panic in January 1991 when it suddenly withdrew 50 and 100 rouble banknotes from circulation in what it said was a bid to clamp down on black marketeers.

The move undermined public confidence in the rouble and

Moscow is still swept by occasional rumors that the Russian government is planning a similar move.

A newspaper reported recently that the central bank chief has urged a wage freeze for Russian workers, adding his influential voice to demands that the government slow down its economic reforms.

Viktor Gerashchenko, in a newspaper interview, predicted tougher times ahead but said faith in capitalism was growing. He asserted the government could prop up state-run factories without sacrificing the reforms.

"The near-term prospects are not very cheerful," Mr. Gerashchenko told the pro-reform daily Nezavisimaya Gazeta. "The year 1993 has inherited a host of financial problems and the current trend appears to be toward a worsening of these problems."

Mr. Gerashchenko had been at odds with former acting prime minister Yegor Gaidar, the architect of Russia's reforms who was replaced last month by Soviet-style industrialist Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Mr. Gerashchenko, who once ran the Soviet Central Bank, appeared to side closer with Mr. Chernomyrdin on the issue of easier credit for industries. He

expressed support for freezing wages and prices.

"In the near term, say during this winter, we will have to... voluntarily freeze incomes and the prices of certain categories of goods," he said. "If we freeze prices for three or four months, the public will rest assured that the prices won't go up and that they don't have to hoard."

He also suggested raising interest rates at the state savings bank to compensate depositors for losses due to inflation and the falling value of the rouble.

The current interest rate on savings deposits is between 20 per cent and 80 per cent, depending on the type and amount of deposit. But it's still far less than inflation, which hit about 2,000 per cent last year.

Siding with Mr. Chernomyrdin, Mr. Gerashchenko said the government should focus on boosting industrial production with loans or subsidies, both for state-run and private businesses.

"The stereotype of a capitalist as a bum drawing an unearned income and enjoying a daily diet of caviar is beginning to disappear," the ex-communist said. "The image now is more like that of a hard-working person who multiplies his own wealth as well as the nation's."

Britain cuts interest rates to lowest since '77

LONDON (R) — Britain slashed its interest rates to the lowest level for 15 years Tuesday in a bid to haul the economy firmly out of the longest recession since the 1930s and contain soaring unemployment.

The one percentage point cut to six per cent took many economists by surprise, both for its size and timing.

Industrialists who had been pleading for reduction in the cost of borrowing welcomed the move but some said it was not enough to ensure real growth in an economy plagued by slumping property prices and the worst jobless rate for almost six years.

"It shows they have taken the initiative and responded to fragile

data, and shows they are trying to ensure the economy doesn't go back into recession," said Gerard Lyons, chief economist at DKB International. "But I still think they will have to take further action to guarantee recovery."

Interest rates have now fallen by four percentage points since Britain was forced last September to withdraw sterling from the constraints of managed exchange rates in the European Community's currency grid. Tuesday's reduction took the cost of borrowing to its lowest level since November 1977.

The pound tumbled on foreign currency exchanges, dropping three pence against the mark to 2.4250 marks and nearly three cents against the dollar to around \$1.5390.

Shares soared, with the Financial Times-Stock Exchange index of 100 leading stocks climbing 55 points after the announcement by the Bank of England to 2,827 at noon.

The central bank signalled the rate cut by reintroducing its minimum lending rate, a technical move which made it clear that commercial banks had to follow suit. Within minutes, British banks and building societies reduced their lending rates to customers and homeowners.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont said the cut was "appropriate" given recent data indicating weak consumer demand and falling house prices. Because inflation was under control on both the wages and prices front, lower rates could be man-

aged, he said.

Recovery from the two-year-long recession is taking longer than Prime Minister John Major's government had expected. Almost three million Britons — 10.5 per cent of the workforce — are without a job, a huge political embarrassment for Mr. Major who told voters in general elections last April that economic recovery was just around the corner.

The rate cut received a lukewarm welcome from the opposition Labour Party. It did not add up to an economic strategy to deal with rising unemployment and still-falling investment, said the party's economics spokesman, Gordon Brown.

The next interest-rate reduction had been widely expected to take place nearer to the March 16 annual budget and only a half percentage point cut was generally envisaged. But with annual core inflation at 3.7 per cent, Mr. Lamont heeded the calls from businessmen that rates at seven per cent were onerous for a recession-gripped economy.

There was a chink of light Monday when more than 1,000 firms questioned in the latest quarterly survey by the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) said they believed they would emerge over the next four months from the recession.

But the CBI said there needed to be a significant improvement in orders and output before there could be any certainty that the recession was coming to an end.

China construction boom sends cement prices soaring

BEIJING (R) — China's construction boom has caused such demand for materials that the price of cement has quadrupled in some places and fights have broken out over supplies, an official newspaper has said.

The article in the Economic Daily, the newspaper of the State Council (cabinet), is an admission that land speculation is leading to huge increases in the cost of basic materials.

The front-page article is another sign of how concerned the leadership is about economic overheating.

In some areas of Sichuan, China's most populous province, the price of cement has rocketed from 200 yuan a tonne (\$35) to as much as 900 yuan a tonne (\$160) in the course of several months, the newspaper said.

At one cement factory the line of trucks waiting to load stretched five kilometres and drivers had to wait overnight for several days in

a row to get their supplies.

Police have had to restore order in places where fights over cement have broken out.

China has seen a tremendous boom in construction since paramount leader Deng Xiaoping ordered faster economic growth last year. While the economy as a whole grew 12 per cent in 1992, the growth in construction was even more dramatic.

Total investment in fixed assets grew by 36.8 per cent in 1992 over the previous year. Funds earmarked for construction rose by 44.8 per cent.

Officials have started complaining that much growth is wasted, with localities planning projects simply to jump on the economic reform bandwagon without a thought for whether they are actually needed.

"The scale of projects under construction is too big, the investment structure is irrational, the investment efficiency is not en-

couraging," the State Statistical Bureau said in its latest "China Economic Developments" bulletin. "After the economic rectification there is a new round of high tide of investment."

The Economic Daily criticised the rush to create special investment zones, saying many were used simply for speculation.

It said many projects had been halted because the developer could not afford the high cost of building materials.

"It's very easy for government departments simply to issue an order, hold a press conference and establish a development zone or an industrial zone," it said.

"Real estate moguls can also just speculate on land prices as if land were like stock certificates. But 'development' will be just a dream if enterprises and businessmen don't put their money on real construction," it pointed out.

Seoul cuts interest rates

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea cut its interest rates by up to two percentage points Tuesday, hoping to encourage investment by businesses suffering from interest costs among the highest in the world.

The government said the widely anticipated measure would stimulate the nation's economy, which has veered off its high-speed course due to lack of demand both at home and abroad for Korean products.

The Korean economy grew only 2.8 per cent in the second half of last year, the lowest rate in 12 years after annual growth of eight to nine per cent.

The central bank cut its rediscount rate charged on loans to other banks from seven per cent to five or six per cent, depending on the type of loan.



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Croatians step up offensive in Serb-held Krajina enclave

ZAGREB (R) — Croatian forces pressed ahead Tuesday with an offensive in the enclave of Krajina and Serb rebels massed for battle despite U.N. condemnation of the fighting. U.N. officials said Tuesday.

"Despite Security Council demands for an immediate end to hostile activities by the Croatian army, it is continuing with attempts to take further positions and infiltrate forces beyond the current (front)," a U.N. peace force spokeswoman said.

Shannon Boyd of the U.N. Protection Force stationed in former Yugoslavia said commanders of the Belgrade-backed Serb irregular forces based in Krajina's main city Knin "are continuing to move reinforcements forward."

Croatian troops stormed over a year-old U.N. ceasefire line on Friday with the stated objective of dislodging Serbs from Krajina's western fringe, where they had blocked Croatia's main north-south highway and closed a major airport.

But Mr. Boyd said Croatian forces appeared to be pushing beyond the U.N.-patrolled buffer zone between the Dalmatian coast and Krajina into the Serb-populated enclave proper.

"Croatian army shelling has continued... in what appears to be a continuing attempt to move forward at various points along the confrontation line," she told Reuters.

International pressure to end the fighting in former Yugoslavia was stepped up Tuesday and action on the battlefield appeared

to ease after a whirlwind Croatian offensive.

The Security Council demanded the withdrawal of Croatian troops who struck Friday into the Serb-inhabited Krajina area of Croatia — protected by U.N. forces for the past year — and made key territorial gains, including a strategic airport.

The Croats said they intended to push Serbs back from the Adriatic coast to a new ceasefire line.

Any truce would be conditional on Serbs retreating 20 kilometres behind the previous year-old line, said Admiral Sveto Letica of the Croatian Navy.

France Tuesday ordered its aircraft carrier Clemenceau to head for the Adriatic after two French U.N. soldiers were killed Monday by crossfire in fierce fighting for control of a U.N.-monitored buffer zone east of the port of Zadar.

It said the move was designed "to ensure the security of the French forces."

In a unanimous resolution, the Security Council demanded an immediate end to attacks on U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) troops and the immediate return of heavy weapons seized from UNPROFOR storage areas by Serbs in response to the Croatian offensive.

Nearly 5,000 French soldiers are serving with UNPROFOR. The upsurge of fighting in Croatia threatened to undo peace talks in Geneva designed to end fighting in neighbouring Bosnia.

U.N. and European Community mediators vowed to soldier on for a Bosnian settlement, hoping against hope that the fighting in Krajina will fizzle out, but reported little progress.

Conference Co-Chairman Lord Owen issued a strong warning Tuesday against any suggestion of ending an arms ban on former Yugoslavia on the grounds it would unleash wider violence across the region.

Responding to reports that the new U.S. Clinton administration may consider lifting the embargo as an option in a Yugoslav policy review, Lord Owen told Reuters Television: "I will argue very strongly against it while there is any life in the negotiating process."

Lord Owen said Croatia had been illegally rearming, adding: "If you lift the arms embargo, you've had a very good foretaste of what happens in Croatia."

The areas east and south of the Croatian port of Zadar, where heavy fighting raged Monday after Croatian forces captured Zemunik Airport, were reported by Croatia and UNPROFOR officers to have been largely quiet overnight.

Croatian military officials were taking journalists on a tour of the newly-captured areas Tuesday. In neighbouring Bosnia, where fighting in its three-sided civil war has raged with new intensity in the past few days, there also appeared to be a lull in overnight action.

Snow-covered Sarajevo, the Serb-besieged capital, passed a quiet night before shelling began around the edge of the old town.

Minor shelling was also reported in nearby Vogošća and the northern Bosnia towns of Gradacac and Brčko, along the Serb-held land corridor between Bosnia and Croatia which Muslim forces are trying to interest with daily attacks.

Russia announced Tuesday it was sending Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaly Churkin to Croatia Wednesday, two days after the raised the threat of international sanctions against Zagreb.

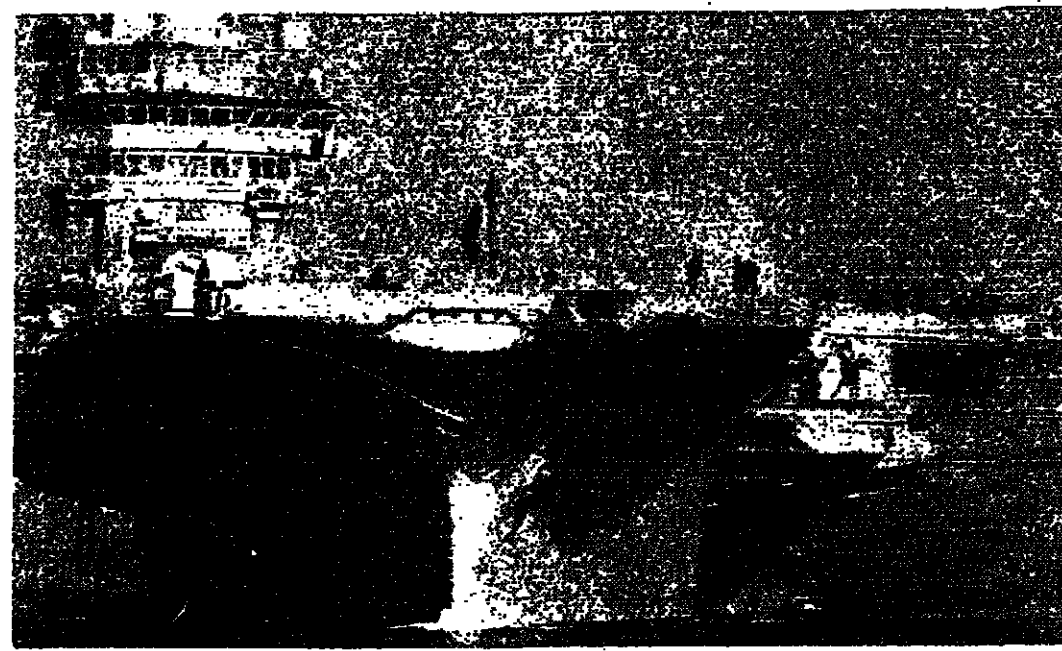
The Foreign Ministry said Mr. Churkin was making the trip "in connection with the worsening situation in Croatia."

Mr. Churkin will discuss the crisis with President Franjo Tudjman, a spokesman said.

Mr. Churkin warned Monday that Russia might press for U.N. sanctions against Croatia over the attack, saying Moscow's U.N. mission had been briefed on the possibility.

The Foreign Ministry issued a separate statement the same day, branding Croatian attacks on Serb targets "ill-considered" and "unacceptable" and saying that they demanded and adequate response from the world community.

The Foreign Ministry is under constant attack from Russian nationalists and former Communists, who accuse it of abandoning Moscow's traditional Serb allies and slavishly adhering to Western desires.



French aircraft carrier Clémenceau at the Toulon docks. France announced officially that it is sending the Clémenceau to the Adriatic, following the killing of two French U.N. soldiers during the Croatian offensive in Croatia's Serb-held Krajina region (AFP photo)

16 Azeri troops die in barracks blast

MOSCOW (R) — Sixteen Azeri soldiers were killed and 41 injured in an explosion at a barracks in western Azerbaijan, a Defence Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

The blast, Sunday, partially destroyed the barracks at Agdam, 250 kilometres west of Baku and next to the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

There was no immediate indication whether it was connected to the bloody territorial conflict with Armenia, which has taken more than 2,500 lives in the past five years.

"First estimates suggest the explosion came from inside the barracks," said the spokesman, speaking by telephone from Baku. An investigation was being carried out.

Meanwhile, blacked-out and

energy-starved Armenia may introduce a state of emergency to prevent mass riots and a crime explosion after losing its last source of fuel supplies, Izvestia newspaper said Monday.

The evening paper quoted official sources as saying leaders of parliament and government had considered imposing a state of emergency and curfew after a gas pipeline in neighbouring Georgia was blown up Saturday, cutting off all fuel supplies.

No decision had been taken so far, Izvestia said.

An Armenian presidential spokesman blamed neighbouring Azerbaijan Sunday for the blast which cut the gas supplies.

Azerbaijan denied responsibility for the explosion, which occurred in a part of Georgia inhabited largely by Azeris.

ITAR-TASS News Agency quoted Energy Minister Steve Tashjan as saying it would take at least 10 days to repair the pipeline.

In a separate report TASS said work had also started on a temporary pipeline which might be ready by the end of the week.

Meanwhile, Armenia was using energy from its hydroelectric power station to supply at least some hospitals and bakeries.

Some petrol would be flown in from Russia, TASS said, adding that apartments would get electricity two or three hours daily.

In a separate report, TASS quoted the Azeri Defence Ministry Monday as saying Armenian forces shelled the Azeri border village of Novoyavanovka, in Khabak district, inflicting civilian and military casualties.

U.S. considers recognising Angola

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States is moving towards diplomatic recognition of the Angolan government for the first time, more than 17 years after the country gained its independence. State Department officials said.

The subject will be discussed later this week during a visit of Angolan Foreign Minister Venancio Da Moura, but it is not clear whether the establishment of relations will be announced.

"The question of recognition is under active review" and is being given "serious consideration," a State Department official said Monday.

Mr. Da Moura is expected to come from New York, where he has been consulting with U.N. officials.

Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos has appealed publicly for recognition and made his views known in a letter to the Clinton administration.

The Angolan government had been considered a cold war adversary because of its close ties with the Soviet Union and Cuba. Between 1986 and 1991, Washington provided large-scale military aid to Angola's anti-Communist rebel movement. Another rebel ally was South Africa.

Mr. Dos Santos had the backing of 50,000 Cuban troops and was perhaps Moscow's closest ally in Africa. In recent years, however, he has become a moderate, shedding his leftist views.

At the same time, U.S. good will toward the UNITA rebels, known formally as the National Union for the Total Liberation of Angola, has been dissipating. A peace agreement was signed in May 1991 but there has been intermittent fighting for the past three months — for which Washington has held UNITA largely responsible.

Delegations from the Angolan government and UNITA rebels, at war on several fronts at home, will fly to Addis Ababa Tuesday to discuss a ceasefire and the peace agreement they signed in May.

Fierce battles were continuing in the central city of Huambo, the southern city of Menongue and Kuito in central Bie province, state-run radio said Monday night.

Diplomats say the government, after losing ground to UNITA on the battlefield, had offered concessions to make the talks possible. It has agreed, for example, to put political matters on the agenda.

The high-level negotiators are expected to gather in the Ethiopian capital Tuesday along with U.N., Russian, U.S. and Portuguese peace accord observers, diplomats and the radio said.

"We're due to leave at noon," said a senior U.S. diplomat. "It looks like the meeting is on."

The radio said a ceasefire was a top priority for the talks but diplomats said an agenda had not been worked out.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Cosmonauts dock with Mir

MOSCOW (R) — Two Russian cosmonauts docked with the orbiting space station Mir Tuesday, testing a manual docking system to be used in a joint mission with the United States planned for 1995. "Everything went without a hitch," an official at Moscow ground control said after Gennady Manakov and Alexander Poleschchuk had linked their Soyuz TM-16 spacecraft with Mir. The two men used a recently-installed docking node on Soyuz and a similar one on Kristall, a module in the Mir complex. The system was last used in 1975 during the U.S.-Soviet joint Soyuz-Apollo mission. It is also due to be used when the U.S. space shuttle docks with Mir in a new collaboration scheduled for 1995.

Europeans leave Togo after bloodbath

LOME (R) — Two European ministers whose peace mission to Togo ended in a bloodbath flew back to Paris Tuesday as opponents of President Gnassingbe Eyadema counted their dead. The envoys had a "cold and frank" discussion at the airport with pro-Eyadema Foreign Minister Ouattara Natchaba, Western diplomatic sources said. French Cooperation Minister Marcel Debarge and Helmut Schaefer, the German minister of state for foreign affairs, were shown 12 bodies Monday night, hours after security forces opened fire on demonstrators. By Tuesday morning, relief agencies, doctors and relatives put the death toll at between 14 and 20 with at least 25 injured, all with bullet wounds. Some of the injured were taken to neighbouring Ghana by friends and relatives fearing for their safety in government hospitals, medical sources said. The Interior Ministry, controlled by General Eyadema, claimed Monday that only two people had died, one of them a policeman. This version was soon exposed as absurd after the visiting ministers toured Lome's main morgue and saw the bodies of seven people killed by bullets. Five more were laid out for their inspection at the house of Archbishop Philippe Krodzro, president of Togo's interim parliament.

S. African police fail to find graves

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Police hunted for mass graves Tuesday, but failed to find anything despite new claims by an ex-cop that detainees were tortured and killed at police stations. Using an earth mover, police dug a hole the size of a car just outside the police station near Carletonville, 60 kilometres west of Johannesburg. Johnny Mokale, a black ex-policeman, directed police to the spot, saying he helped bury a black detainee shot at the station by another officer in 1989. Mokale, accompanied by his lawyer and dozens of journalists, had guided police to an alleged mass grave on a farm Monday night northwest of Johannesburg. Authorities dug a swimming pool-sized hole on the spot marked by Mokale, but did not find any remains. Mokale says in 1988 he and other policemen at the farm brutally assaulted and then buried four black detainees — one of whom was still breathing. Opposition groups have charged the security forces routinely assaulted and killed government opponents for years.

Clinton unswayed on gays issue

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton has refused to back down in the face of strong opposition from the military and Congress and vowed to implement his pledge to lift a ban on homosexuals in the armed forces. Mr. Clinton met for nearly two hours with the six Joint Chiefs of Staff, including Chairman General Colin Powell, and a spokesman said afterwards the meeting was "cordial, honest and respectful" but that Mr. Clinton was unswayed. Spokesman George Stephanopoulos said Mr. Clinton would announce his policy move within a week. "The president reiterated his commitment to ending discrimination against homosexuals in the military solely on the basis of status, and to maintaining morale and cohesion in the military," he said. "The joint chiefs expressed their concerns and difficulties with the president's commitment, but also expressed their respect for his decision-making power as commander-in-chief," he said, adding that none of them mentioned any threats to resign if Mr. Clinton goes ahead.

Supertanker fire doused after 5 days

SINGAPORE (AP) — A fire that burned for five days on a Danish supertanker after it collided with another ship was put out Tuesday. Foam sprayed by salvage tugs smothered blazing crude oil gushing from the 260,000-tonne Maersk Navigator, said a statement issued by the A.P. Moller Co., owner of the ship. "Foam attack was successful and now cooling. All resources standing by in case of a flare-up. Preparing for oil pollution control," said a terse message from the Dutch salvage firm Smit Tak, hired by Moller to recover the tanker. Water cannons mounted on salvage tugs hosed the red-hot hull to cool it and contain the fire until it was blanketed with foam. There were no fresh details about the 56-kilometre oil slick that spilled from one ruptured tank on the port side of the stricken ship. After the slick drifted within 16 kilometres of the coral-ringed southern coast of India's great Nicobar Island, the tanker was towed westward Monday.

Khmer Rouge sets conditions to take part in poll

PHNOM PENH (AP) — The Khmer Rouge said Tuesday it would participate in Cambodia's presidential election if the winner were given authority to carry out the guerrilla group's longstanding demands.

The Khmer Rouge group so far has stymied most efforts to register voters in areas under its control.

The general election is to be held by May, and it is likely that a presidential election will be held simultaneously or slightly earlier.

The Khmer Rouge statement said it would take part in the presidential election if Cambodia's four factions, U.N. peacekeepers, the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and all co-signatories of Cambodia's peace accord agree in writing beforehand that the elected president would be given complete authority over the factions, including the Khmer Rouge.

Mr. Clinton called his wife, until recently a corporate lawyer, "a first lady of many talents" with a unique gift for cutting through complex issues and forging consensus.

Tackling the troubles in the U.S. health care system — which costs more than any in the world but leaves tens of millions of Americans without health insurance — was one of Mr. Clinton's bedrock promises in the 1992 campaign.

The president said he was grateful that Mrs. Clinton would "be sharing some of the heat I expect to generate."

"I want it done — now," he said at the close of an hour-long meeting with Mrs. Clinton, a half-dozen cabinet secretaries, his OMB director and other senior White House aides on the president's Task Force on National Health Care Reform.

He noted that she chaired an Arkansas education standards committee that played a leading role in pushing through school reforms there a decade ago while he was governor, and also had chaired a state panel on rural health problems.

The White House also distributed decade-old press clips on her work.

Mr. Clinton said the task force would work from a "war room" in the old executive office building in a crash effort to meet his goal of sending his health reform legislation to Capitol Hill in his first 100 days.

Hunt begins for CIA rush-hour killer

WASHINGTON (R) — A manhunt was underway for a cold-eyed killer who methodically sprayed rifle fire into cars at the guarded Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) complex entrance Monday, killing two men and wounding three others.

The two men who died at the scene and two who were wounded were CIA employees, the spy agency said. The third wounded man worked for a CIA contractor, but no job titles were revealed.

Police and federal agents searched for a white man in his 20s, about five feet 10 inches (1.8 metres) tall who wore a dark, possibly military-style jacket and dark pants and sped from the scene in a station wagon towards Washington.

Police said they had several names of people they want to question about the rush hour shootings at the CIA entrance 16 kilometres from Washington at Langley, Virginia, but they gave no apparent motive for the shooting spree.

Whoever opened fire during the unprecedented attack at the agency did so with cold-blooded calculation.

While waiting in a line of traffic to go into the guarded gate of the suburban CIA complex, he got out of his car with possibly an automatic or semi-automatic military-style assault rifle and walked up to cars waiting in two lanes. He shot back and forth into cars in one lane, then another, witnesses said.

Former CIA Director William Webster said in a TV interview it was too early in the investigation to know who the man was or whether he had a grudge against the agency.

"It's a reasonable inference that the man knew where he was, outside CIA Headquarters... knew that people had to wait their turn in traffic to go inside and had an opportunity to do what he did — and did it in a very calculating, cool manner," he said.

All five men shot lived in the Virginia suburbs. Frank Darling, 28, and Lansing Bennett, 66, of Reston were dead on the scene. One unidentified man — who said he did not work at the CIA — was treated for what was described as a superficial gun shot wound and released from hospital.

Two other men were taken to hospital in critical condition, but later one of the men's condition was upgraded to serious.

In a statement, the CIA said its employees "are shocked and saddened at the senseless attack on our friends and colleagues" and said it lost "two respected members" and saw two others wounded.

Eyewitnesses, including Senator Bob Smith, a New Hampshire Republican, driving in the opposite direction to the line of cars, said the man acted icily without visible emotion.

Sen. Smith said he heard a rapid "pop pop pop" four or five shots — before he saw shooting at the cars.

"He looked in my direction," Sen. Smith said. "He then turned and walked between the two rows of cars that were lined up to go into the CIA, and coolly and methodically with no emotion, no expression and no words, he simply walked up to the automobiles and fired at point-blank range into the windows at these people."

Mrs. Clinton will work in the White House with Carol Rasco, Mr. Clinton's domestic policy adviser; Ira Magaziner, his senior policy adviser, and Judy Feder, who headed the transition health care team.

The appointment was hailed by Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., who will play a key role in shaping health reform on Capitol Hill.

"It can only be a plus," said Rep. Waxman, chairman of a House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health and the Environment. "This move shows that health care is going to be a very serious priority for the Clinton administration."

Mr. Clinton argued during the campaign that a universal coverage could be paid for by squeezing excess costs from the current system. But his transition advisers reportedly advised Mr. Clinton that expanded coverage would drive up federal costs in the short term. Mr. Clinton wants to impose an overall spending cap on health expenditures and promote managed competition in which insurers force doctors and hospitals to keep costs down. His advisers also reportedly are looking into taxing a portion of employee health care benefits.

"We're going to have to make tough choices," said Mr. Clinton.

Chelsea goes to school

WASHINGTON (AP) — After mom dropped her off at her new school Chelsea Clinton played goalie in a soccer game, attended a weekly musical theatre class and ate in the school lunchroom.

"She's nice," said one classmate. Schoolmates at the Sidwell Friends School, a \$10,800-a-year private school, said President Bill Clinton's only child was an everyday kid who they expect to blend into the crowd.

"She seemed pretty normal," said 10-year-old Elizabeth Mounts. "She's nice," added Elizabeth Levy, 11. Both girls, fifth-graders, attended the musical theatre class with Chelsea. Chelsea, a 12-year-old eighth-grader, was escorted to school by her mother, Hillary Rodham Clinton. They avoided the main entrance, where a small contingent of reporters, photographers and television news crews were camped out.

"Mrs. Clinton wanted to go on her first day," said the first lady's spokeswoman, Lisa Caputo. She said she did not know if that would be a standard practice. The Clintons often took Chelsea to school in Little Rock, Arkansas, when Mr. Clinton was governor.

Quayle lands deal for memoirs

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Vice President Dan Quayle has sold his memoirs for at least \$1 million, according to a published report. The Washington Post cites unidentified sources as saying a seven-figure deal was struck with Harper Collins and that the book will begin with Mr. Quayle's selection as George Bush's running mate in 1988 and end with last November's election. The Post said that in addition to mainstream bookstores, the publisher intends to sell the book through its religious subsidiary in Christian-oriented markets — much as it did the highly successful memoirs of Oliver North. The paper said the Quayle book probably will be published in the fall of 1994 and that the proposal was shown to only three publishers. Mr. Quayle was a controversial figure during his four years as vice president, with critics pointing to his numerous embarrassing gaffes and behind-the-scenes circumventing of legislation.

Streisand contemplates U.S. Senate bid

NEW YORK (R) — Entertainer Barbara Streisand is thinking about running for the U.S. Senate, the New York Post reported. Ms. Streisand, 50, disclosed her intentions during the inauguration festivities last week, the Post said, quoting an unnamed high-placed Democratic source. "Barbara said she had been giving the idea of political office some thought," the source was quoted as saying. "Specifically, she said she was considering running for Senate."



Kris Kross, Pearl Jam win music awards

LOS ANGELES (R) — An eclectic range of grunge rockers, country crooners and rappers won top honours at the American Music Awards. The awards, based on a national poll of 20,000 Americans, generally favour safe, easy-listening singers, leaving the more adventurous performers out in the cold. Accordingly, Michael Jackson, Mariah Carey, Michael Bolton and Billy Ray Cyrus each won two awards. Arrested Development, a new soul group whose debut album was critically acclaimed last year, missed out in both categories in which they were nominated. There were eight double winners in all. Jackson had been nominated in five categories. There were some surprises. Seattle grunge rockers Pearl Jam won Favourite New Rock Artist and Favourite New Pop Artist. Rappers Kris Kross, who scored one of last year's biggest hit singles, Lumpy, also won two Best New Artist Awards in the soul and rap categories. Country singer Billy Ray Cyrus injected a note of controversy when he picked up the favourite Country Single Award for Achy Breaky Heart. Cyrus, whose debut album Some Gave All topped the billboard pop charts for 17 weeks last year, has earned heaps of scorn from the country establishment for his urbane good looks and huge commercial success. Cyrus also won the award for Favourite New Country Artist. He was edged out for favourite male country artist by Garth Brooks. Mariah Carey won Favourite Female Pop Artist and Favourite Adult Contemporary Album for her album Unplugged.

Two other men were taken to hospital in critical condition, but later one of the men's condition was upgraded to serious.

In a statement, the CIA said its employees "are shocked and saddened at the senseless attack on our friends and colleagues" and said it lost "two respected members" and saw two others wounded.

Eyewitnesses, including Senator Bob Smith, a New Hampshire Republican, driving in the opposite direction to the line of cars, said the man acted icily without visible emotion.

Sen. Smith said he heard a rapid "pop pop pop" four or five shots — before he saw shooting at the cars.

"He looked in my direction," Sen. Smith said. "He then turned and walked between the two rows of cars that were lined up to go into the CIA, and coolly and methodically with no emotion, no expression and no words, he simply walked up to the automobiles and fired at point-blank range into the windows at these people."

Mrs. Clinton will work in the White House with Carol Rasco, Mr. Clinton's domestic policy adviser; Ira Magaziner, his senior policy adviser, and Judy Feder, who headed the transition health care team.

The appointment was hailed by Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., who will play a key role in shaping health reform on Capitol Hill.

"It can only be a plus," said Rep. Waxman, chairman of a House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health and the Environment. "This move shows that health care is going to be a very serious priority for the Clinton administration."

Mr. Clinton argued during the campaign that a universal coverage could be paid for by squeezing excess costs from the current system. But his transition advisers reportedly advised Mr. Clinton that expanded coverage would drive up federal costs in the short term. Mr. Clinton wants to impose an overall spending cap on health expenditures and promote managed competition in which insurers force doctors and hospitals to keep costs down. His advisers also reportedly are looking into taxing a portion of employee health care benefits.

"We're going to have to make tough choices," said Mr. Clinton.